www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish youtube.com/@dailysalardigital Website: salarnews.in

SALAR ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

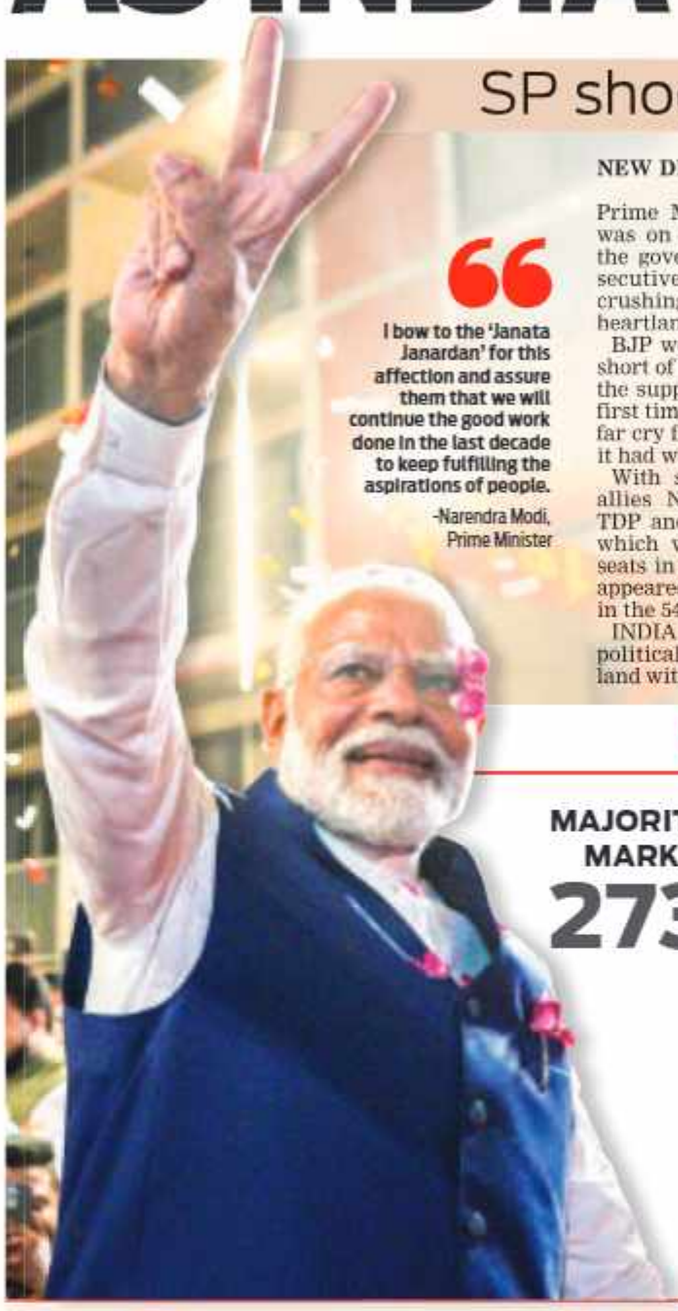
5 JUNE 2024 | WEDNESDAY | BENGALURU | 27 DHUL-QIDAH, 1445 AH

Vol 4 | Issue No 134| Pages: 12

www.magzter.com

NDA NOT '300 PAAR' AS INDIA FIGHTS BACK

SP shocks BJP in UP, bags 37 of 80 seats



> I bow to the 'Janata Janardan' for this affection and assure them that we will continue the good work done in the last decade to keep fulfilling the aspirations of people.
>
> -Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Tuesday poised to form the government for a third consecutive term notwithstanding crushing losses in three Hindi heartland states.

BJP won 240 seats and will fall short of the 272 majority, needing the support of allies for the very first time for NDA to form. This a far cry from the 303 and 282 seats it had won in 2019 and 2014.

With support from BJP's key allies N Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which were winning 16 and 12 seats in Andhra and Bihar, NDA appeared to bag around 290 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha.

INDIA made a major comeback politically crucial Hindi heartland with its constituent SP registering resurgence in Uttar Pradesh and the bloc making steady headway in Rajasthan, Bihar, Haryana and Jharkhand.

The elections also highlighted the revival of the Congress under Rahul Gandhi, and the unexpected role of the SP - under Akhilesh Yadav, which won 37 of 80 seats in UP.

Modi prepared to take office for a record equalling India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru three terms.

The results did not throw up a landslide victory the NDA had hoped for and what was projected by the exit polls.

The results also blew away the BJP narrative that it will score big in the southern states this time. It, however, returned a tally of zero in Tamil Nadu.

BJP did make inroads in Kerala, winning a seat for the first time in a state where the Congress and the Left are the major political force, and in Telangana where it won or was leading in 8 seats.

Madhya Pradesh went fully saffron with BJP winning or leading in all 29 seats. In Gujarat, too, BJP was winning or leading in 26 seats. Congress broke its decade-long jinx in Gujarat as its candidate won from Banaskantha seat.

The situation was not as decisive in other states.It appeared that the election marked a return to regular politics, where voters were more concerned about bread and butter issues, especially in some Hindi heartland states where the opposition INDIA alliance managed to rally supporters around the issues of unemployment and price rise. —*PTI*

>>>More on Pages 6,7,8,9,10

LOK SABHA ELECTION RESULTS

MAJORITY MARK 273

BJP	240
INC	99
SP	37
TMC	29
DMK	22
TDP	16
JD(U)	12
SENA UBT	9
NCPSP	8
SHIV SENA	7
OTHERS	64

JD(S) workers celebrate HD Kumaraswamy's win PHOTO: PTI

BJP-JD(S) wins 19 of 28 seats in Karnataka, Cong bags 9

NAHEED ATAULLA
BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

BJP continued its winning spree by bagging the maximum number,19 out of the total 28 seats, along with electoral ally JD(S) in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The ruling Congress won the remaining 9 seats.

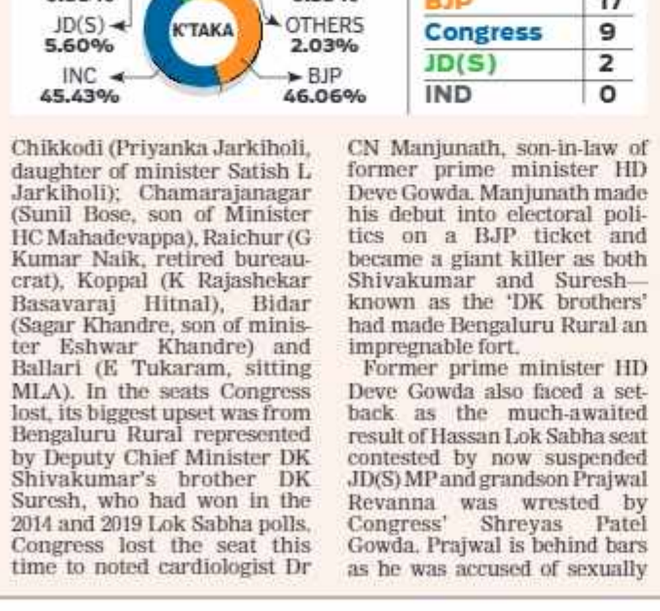
The results tally of 17:9:2—BJP: Congress: JD(S)—is a repeat performance of the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

The single-digit tally for the Congress is a major setback as the party was aiming to win between 15 and 20 seats. Banking on the five welfare guarantees, of which three are women-centric, the Congress had hoped to break the stranglehold of the BJP in Karnataka. The nine seats won by the Congress are: Kalaburagi contested by AICC President Mallikarjun M Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani; Chikkodi (Priyanka Jarkiholi, daughter of minister Satish L Jarkiholi); Chamarajanagar (Sunil Bose, son of Minister HC Mahadevappa), Raichur (G Kumar Naik, retired bureaucrat), Koppal (K Rajashekar Basavaraj Hitnal), Bidar (Sagar Khandre, son of minister Eshwar Khandre) and Ballari (E Tukaram, sitting MLA). In the seats Congress lost, its biggest upset was from Bengaluru Rural represented by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's brother DK Suresh, who had won in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Congress lost the seat this time to noted cardiologist Dr CN Manjunath, son-in-law of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda. Manjunath made his debut into electoral politics on a BJP ticket and became a giant killer as both Shivakumar and Suresh—known as the 'DK brothers' had made Bengaluru Rural an impregnable fort.

Former prime minister HD Deve Gowda also faced a setback as the much-awaited result of Hassan Lok Sabha seat contested by now suspended JD(S) MP and grandson Prajwal Revanna was wrested by Congress' Shreyas Patel Gowda. Prajwal is behind bars as he was accused of sexually abusing women and video graphing the act on his phone. Gowda had bequeathed the Hassan seat to Prajwal, whom he was looking for as his political heir.

Bengaluru seats' performance: All four seats—Bengaluru North, Bengaluru South and Bengaluru Central were retained by BJP candidates, with the latter opening its account in Bengaluru Rural. During the counting of votes, there was hope for the Congress in Bengaluru Central contested by AICC Secretary in-charge of Telan gana Mansoor Ali Khan. He maintained an impressive lead of over 70,000 votes against sitting BJP incumbent PC Mohan. However, Mohan overtook him when the counting was taken up for Mahadevapura and Rajajinagar represented by BJP MLAs, and he retained the seat with a margin of 32,707 votes. —*Salar News*

>>>More on Pages 2,3,4,5



> BJP may be single largest party, but it has not got a simple majority. There was no Modi wave anywhere, which means that it is very clear that his popularity has diminished. Narendra Modi has no moral right to become the prime minister of this country
>
> -Siddaramaiah, Karnataka CM

In J&K, Omar & Mehbooba concede defeat

Lok Sabha election results in Kashmir sprung a few surprises as former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were humbled at the hustings by lesser-known candidates. While Mufti lost to NC candidate Mian Altaf Ahmad by a huge margin in Anantnag-Rajouri, Abdullah was defeated by former MLA and terror financing accused Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid in Baramulla.

In strife-torn Manipur, Cong wins & BJP loses

Congress won both Lok Sabha seats in strife-torn Manipur. Alfred Kanngam S Arthur won the Outer Manipur seat by 85,418 votes, defeating Kachui Timothy Zimik of NPF. Arthur secured 3,84,954 votes, while Zimik bagged 2,99,536 votes. In the Inner Manipur seat, Angomcha Bimol Akoijam defeated his nearest rival Thounaojam Basantakumar of BJP by 1,09,801 votes.

Bloodbath on D-Street as investors lose ₹31L cr

MUMBAI, 4 JUNE

Equity investors suffered a loss of Rs 31 lakh crore on Tuesday as markets went into a tailspin with the BSE Sensex tumbling nearly 6 per cent as vote counting trends showed BJP may not have a clear majority in the Lok Sabh.

Reversing its Monday's sharp gains of over 3 per cent, the 30-share BSE Sensex nosedived 4,389.73 points or 5.74 per cent to close at a more than two-month low of 72,079.05. Nifty tumbled 1,982.45 points or 8.52 per cent to 21,281.45 during the day. Sensex and Nifty had previously declined by around 13 per cent on 23 March, 2020 when lockdown was imposed due to Covid-19. When the Narendra Modi government came to power on 16 May, 2014, Sensex had rallied 261.14 points to settle at 24,121.74. The BSE benchmark had hit the 25,000-mark in intra-day trade on that day. On 23 May, 2019, Sensex

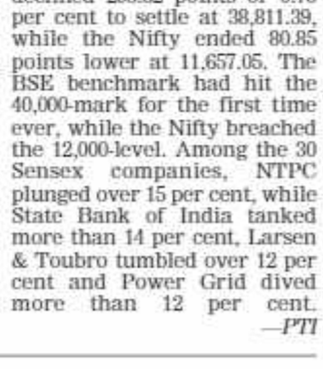


PHOTO: PTI

declined 298.82 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 38,811.39, while the Nifty ended 80.85 points lower at 11,657.05. The BSE benchmark had hit the 40,000-mark for the first time ever, while the Nifty breached the 12,000-level. Among the 30 Sensex companies, NTPC plunged over 15 per cent, while State Bank of India tanked more than 14 per cent, Larsen & Toubro tumbled over 12 per cent and Power Grid dived more than 12 per cent. —*PTI*

Naidu overcomes arrest to script Andhra win

AMARAVATI, 4 JUNE

Five years after suffering a humiliating defeat at the hands of a much younger Jagan Mohan Reddy, TDP Supremo N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday was on course to lead his party towards a landslide victory in the Andhra Pradesh assembly polls, with allies BJP and Janasena Party (JNP) in tow.

Naidu's latest electoral triumph, where his TDP was ahead in 130 of the 175 seats as per latest figures, comes months after his arrest in an alleged corruption case. In the outgoing House, TDP has 23 members.

BJP leader Sidharth Singh congratulates TDP Chief Chandrababu Naidu

Born on 20 April, 1950 at Naravaripalli in undivided Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, Nara Chandrababu Naidu started his more than four-decade long political career on the student politics platform at Sri Venkateswara University in Tirupati. Following that solid foundation, Naidu, 74, joined Congress and went on to become a Cabinet minister. However, he later jumped ship to the TDP founded by his late father-in-law and legendary actor NT Rama Rao. Naidu first ascended the chief minister's chair in 1995 and went on to become a three-time chief minister. He emerged as the chief architect of modern Hyderabad, playing a key role in developing the hi-tech city and turning it into a major hub. —*PTI*

In a first, BJP storms to power in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, 4 JUNE

The BJP on Tuesday stormed to power in Odisha by dethroning the BJD which has been in power for the last 24 years.

The BJP won 74 seats in the 147-member Odisha Assembly and was leading in four more seats, the Election Commission of India.

The BJD has won 50 seats and was leading in one seat. Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik won from the Hinjili seat by defeating his nearest BJP rival Sisir Kumar Mishra by 4,636 votes.

The Congress has won 14 seats while the CPI(M) has won one seat.

Naveen Patnaik PHOTO: PTI

Independent candidates won in three assembly seats. They were Himansu Sekhar Sahu (Dharmasala), Bijay Kumar Dalbehera (Baramba) and Sarada Prasad Pradhan (Mahanga).

Leader of Opposition and BJP candidate Jayanarayan Mishra won Sambalpur MLA seat with a margin of 4,105 votes. BJP Chief whip in Odisha Assembly Mohan Charan Majhi won the Keonjhar seat defeating his nearest rival Mina Majhi of BJD by 11,577 votes.

Senior BJD leader and Odisha Assembly speaker Pramila Mallik won from Binjharpur constituency. Mallik won the seat by defeating her nearest BJP rival Babita Mallick by 2,856 votes. —*PTI*

B'LURU GOES THE SAFFRON WAY

BJP's Shobha & PC Mohan secure seats; Tejasvi wins 7L votes; greenhorn Dr Manjunath delivers a blow

BENGALURU NORTH

SHOBHA KARANDLAJE
PARTY: BJP
Votes: 9,86,049
MARGIN: 2,59,476

With Shobha's win, B'luru elects its first woman MP after 73 years

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

Bengaluru celebrates a historic milestone as Shobha Karandlaje from BJP emerges as the first woman MP from Bengaluru after 73 years.

She won with a margin of 2,59,476 votes, sealing BJP's fifth consecutive win in Bengaluru North. Shobha competed against Congress' fresh face, Professor Rajeev Gowda.

Bengaluru North has the largest vote bank with 31.74 lakh voters, witnessing a voter turnout of 54.45 per cent. Affectionately known as 'Shobhakka', she now assumes the mantle as the first female MP after 17 Lok Sabha elections spanning 73 years.

During her campaign, Shobhakka expressed confidence in securing victory for both herself and Prime Minister Modi. Speaking to reporters outside St Joseph college where counting was held on Tuesday, Shobakka said, "I have visited the polling station in the late evening and we already have nearly 2 lakh votes and I'm confident that I will win."

While Congress held sway over Bengaluru North for over 45 years, BJP has maintained dominance for the past 15 years, consolidating its position for another term. The constituency is primarily inhabited by Vokkaligas.

Notably, she made the comeback as the lone woman minister in the 2019 Yeddyurappa Cabinet. Her political journey began in 1996 with Udupi Mahila Morcha of BJP.

—Salar News

Tejasvi Surya gets 2nd time lucky as he sweeps Bengaluru South

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

BJP's youth wing Chief and MP Tejasvi Surya, won the 2024 Lok Sabha elections by holding a commanding vote count of 7,27,535 in Bengaluru South constituency.

Surya in his second Lok Sabha elections emerged victorious by garnering 7.50 lakh votes after beating Congress' Sowmya Reddy by a margin of 2.77 lakh votes.

In 2019 polls, Surya made his debut defeating the senior Congress leader BK Hariprasad by over 3.30 lakh votes. With an electorate of over 22 lakh, the constituency has been electing a BJP MP for the last eight consecutive times since 1996.

Surya expressed his gratitude on X, stating "Bengaluru South's blessings for Sri Narendra Modi Ji is a strong indication for BJP's commitment to the growth and development of Namma Ooru. Looking forward to working with dedication for Bengaluru in Modi 3.0."

The spirited challenger for the Bengaluru South seat is Congress' Sowmya Reddy, who lost the elections by getting only 4,59,460 votes.

Surya has been emphasizing India's achievements under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership over the past decade in his meetings with voters.

He has organized discussions featuring right-wing intellectuals, particularly those associated with the Sangh and Sangh Parivar, in Bengaluru South.

—Salar News

BENGALURU SOUTH

TEJASVI SURYA
PARTY: BJP
Votes: 7,50,830
MARGIN: 2,77,083

BENGALURU

BENGALURU CENTRAL

PC MOHAN
PARTY: BJP
Votes: 6,58,915
MARGIN: 32,707

BJP's PC Mohan holds on to his bastion, wins 4th time straight

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

BJP leader and three-time BJP MP PC Mohan won the Bengaluru Central constituency yet again by a margin of 32,707 votes despite facing anti-incumbency. This victory marked the fourth consecutive win for BJP while Congress' debutant Mansoor Ali Khan narrowly lost.

When the counting was midway Mansoor was leading by a substantial margin of over 60,000 votes and at one point it looked like he will break BJP's winning streak. Mohan posted on X showing confidence of winning the seat. He wrote "Bengaluru Central wins yet again!" It was only later in the afternoon the tides turned in Mohan's favour. According to party insiders the vote banks from Mahadevapura and Gandhinagar tilted the scales in Mohan's favour ensuring his victory.

The constituency was established in 2008 after delimitation by carving out sections from Bengaluru North and South. It is dominated by linguistic and religious minorities such as Tamil, Telugu, Marwari, Muslim and Christian communities. This has been BJP's bastion since 2009 and Congress has not been able to make a foothold. Spanning from slums to the Central Business District, the constituency serves as a microcosm of the national IT industry. Mahadevapura stands out as a prominent hub for software companies, while Shivajinagar and Gandhinagar are bustling commercial centres. The Bengaluru Central Sabha constituency saw a 54.06 per cent voter turnout. Mohan will be serving his fourth term. The constituency has a significant minority electorate and has eight Vidhan Sabha seats two of which are reserved. Mohan tweeted that he won the seat in classic RCB style.

—Salar News

BJP's Dr Manjunath marks his debut in Congress bastion

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

DK Suresh, brother of Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress Chief DK Shivakumar, was defeated in the Bengaluru Rural constituency by BJP's C N Manjunath on Tuesday, in a big blow to the ruling party in Karnataka.

Manjunath polled 10,79,002 votes and Suresh 8,09,355. Manjunath, an eminent cardiologist and former Director of government-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, is the son-in-law of former prime minister and JD(S) Supremo HD Deve Gowda and brother-in-law of former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy.The JD(S) joined NDA last year and contested the Lok Sabha elections in an alliance with BJP. BJP fought in 25 constituencies and the JD(S) in three in Karnataka, which has a total of 28 segments.

The Rajarajeshwari Nagar BJP MLA Munirathna also spread a word across the constituency during campaigning that Manjunath will become a cabinet minister if he is elected. He even claimed that Manjunath would be made the Union Health Minister given his experience as an administrator of the prestigious Jayadeva Hospital.

Manjunath also found many namesakes as competitors in this election. The nearest one was Manjunatha CN a native of Channarayapatna in Hassan district, whose father's name is Nanjundappa. Manjunath's father's name is Nanjappa. The passport photographs of both these candidates show them in a black blazer and tie. Other namesakes were Manjunath K from Papareddypalya, N Manjunatha from Indiranagar slum in Rajajinagar and Manjunath C from Shakti Garden in Mudalapalya in the City.

—PTI

BENGALURU RURAL

DR CN MANJUNATH
PARTY: BJP
Votes: 10,79,002
MARGIN: 2,69,647

CITY VOICES

HENRY HEMKHOSAT HAOKIP
Student & Manipur native
Assembly segment:
Byappanahalli

In my home state Manipur, which has witnessed violence for over a year, everyone wants the right leader to govern us. The results are disappointing as the current government doesn't address social and political rights, or tackle the atrocities. We need a just, right, and fearless leader.

SHIVA KUMAR PRASAD
Mobile Centre owner
Assembly segment:
Chickpet

Even though our constituency remains underdeveloped, most of us voted for PC Mohan because we wanted Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in the Centre. We are happy to have Modi as the PM again and are looking forward to the development he is going to bring this year.

SADHANA HEGDE
Entrepreneur
Assembly segment:
Bommanahalli

Under BJP, environmental issues are ignored. We are looking for support in areas such as planting trees, composting wet waste, and ensuring proper contracts are closed. I hope that important issues do not get overlooked in political negotiations.

OMER
Techie
Assembly segment:
Shivajinagar

The people have given a verdict that will be remembered for a long time in Indian politics. They have given BJP and its partners a victory that feels like a defeat. They have given the Congress alliance a defeat that feels like a victory.

AYUB
Businessman
Assembly segment:
Jayanagar

BJP will not allow anyone else to take over the position of Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister at any cost. It remains to be seen what role Nitish Kumar and N Chandrababu Naidu will play while forming the government at the Centre.

HANUMANTH REDDY
Farmer
Assembly segment:
Ramanagara

BJP has focused on agricultural development by providing subsidies such as PM-KISAN and improving infrastructure. I hope to see more solutions if they stay in power. Under Congress, there has been no progress in improving irrigation, crop insurance. This needs to change.

SHASHIDHAR KG
Industrialist
Assembly segment:
Kaggalipura

If Congress comes to power, it will be a disaster for the country. India witnessed immense developmental activities under BJP, which did not happen under Congress, even though it was in power for a long time. Also, BJP has been grooming youngsters who can take the country forward.

UMESH JADHAV
Social worker
Assembly segment:
Doddakannelli

I hope the winning candidate will prioritise issues such as new development, communal harmony, job creation, youth involvement, and honor for our Armed Forces. I also believe the government should give more priority to the welfare of our veterans and their families.

BJP supporter dies of heart attack after poll results

HUBBALLI, 4 JUNE

Shivprakash Hiremath, a BJP supporter, died of heart attack in Lingaraja Nagar following the Lok Sabha election results. Hiremath was watching the results on TV when he collapsed on the sofa at home. He was overcome by grief of NDA not crossing the 300-seat mark. He was immediately rushed to a by nearby private hospital. —*Salar News*

It was moments of anticipation at City counting centres

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

The much-anticipated vote counting for Lok Sabha elections commenced on Tuesday morning, with a spotlight on Bengaluru South. The constituency, traditionally a BJP stronghold, witnessed a fierce contest between BJP's Tejasvi Surya and Congress' Sowmya Reddy. The counting started at 8 am. Security was beefed up at Mount Carmel College, Vasanthnagar the venue for the counting of Bengaluru Central. A few supporters of Congress candidate Mansoor Ali Khan were glued to their mobiles checking the app for the results. Mansoor was leading the battle of the ballot till afternoon after which his vote share dropped considerably. Police officials found themselves torn between their election duties and their routine ongoing investigations. Speaking to Salar News, a lady CCB official said, "I had arrested an individual in a case who is now at the police station. But I had to be here for the election duty." Security was stringent, extending over a kilometre radius, with officers stationed at every gate. The premises of St. Joseph School hosted a fleet of eight water tankers to ensure adequate facilities for the staff, while nearly 500 police personnel were deployed. —*Salar News*

'Modi factor' helped BJP win in State

Single digit seats for Cong will have repercussions

NAHEED ATAULLA
BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which repeated its 2017 performance by winning 17 Lok Sabha seats this year depended on the Modi factor consolidate its vote share. Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah held several road shows and rallies in the State which seemed to have worked in favour of the BJP candidates.

Several roadshows and rallies helped BJP repeat it's win *PHOTO: PTI*

The Congress was also hoping that the dissent in the BJP and the anti-incumbency factor would help in breaking the BJP stranglehold on the State, especially as the saffron party had changed candidates in 15 constituencies. Another political strategy of the Congress was giving 13 tickets to kin of party leaders including children of nine ministers. Of these only three sailed to victory.

The three coastal seats—Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi-Chikmagaluru went along expected lines of the BJP retaining it. The Congress performance was good in Kalyan Karnataka, while it faltered in Kittur Karnataka.

Speaking to the media after the results, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah admitted that the Congress in Karnataka could not meet its estimation of winning 15 to 20 seats. But the Congress had improved its vote share from 31.88% in 2019 to 45.34% this time as against the BJP's which had dropped from 51.38 per cent to 46.04 per cent now. He attributed the overall low polling as one of the reasons for the Congress' failure to get the adequate numbers. Defeated Congress MP Suresh said : "I have worked for the people of my constituency.

The people have given the opportunity to a new person, wishing that he does good work for the constituency, state and the country. I am an ordinary worker of the party. I grew up among the people of the constituency, I will continue to be with you. Victory and loss are part of democracy and we have to accept it. I was very hopeful of winning given the work done for the constituency. I will continue to work as a party worker."

Asked if the BJP-JDS alliance worked, he said, "Both strategy and conspiracies work in politics, We will continue to fight for the people. Politics is not a necessity for me, I am in politics for the people." Reacting to the poll results, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who won from Mandya with a huge margin of 2.84 lakh said: "The BJP-JD(S) alliance could have won 20 to 22 seats, but for the over-confidence in some leaders."

What does this Congress loss mean to Siddaramaiah & DKS?

The single digit seats is certainly going to have some political repercussions. According to Congress sources, DK Shivakumar who was eyeing the Chief Minister's seat after the Lok Sabha elections is likely to lose his bargaining power. It is also being said that there could be change of guard at the state unit with Shivakumar who is at the helm since 2020 being replaced

Also, defeat of Congress candidate in Mysuru-Kodagu Lok Sabha seat is an embarrassment to Siddaramaiah as it is his home turf. —*Salar News*

'DIDN'T MEET EXPECTATIONS'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah *PHOTO: SALAR*

If we look at vote share, we have improved: CM

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

The Congress in Karnataka, while coming far below the expectation of the party leadership of 20+ seats has managed to increase its vote share in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday evening after the election results were declared Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "If we look at the vote share I think we have made progress.

The difference between the BJP and Congress with regards to vote share is only 1.5 per cent this year. In 2019, BJP had 51.3 percent of the votes while the Congress stood at 31 percent. This year the BJP vote share is 45.34 percent as against the Congress vote share of 46.04 per cent. Similarly, in 2019 we won one seat, while we won 9 seats in this Lok Sabha elections."

Despite votes being sought in the name Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP fell short of securing a majority, Siddaramiah said, adding that even in Ayodhya where the BJP's core issue of Ram Mandir was on the forefront, the party faced a significant setback. The BJP may be single largest party, but it has not got a simple majority. There was no Modi wave anywhere," the Chief Minister said.

Siddaramaiah also said that the people of India had begun to accept Rahul Gandhi as a national leader. His Bharat Jodo Yatra and Nyay Yatra was hugely supported by the people which has led to a significant rise in the Congress' vote share.

Deputy Chief Minster DK Shivakumar said, "The Congress party has crossed 100 seats after a gap of 10 years and the people have reposed faith in the party once again. The performance of the Congress party in the Old Mysuru Region has fallen compared to the Assembly elections. —*Salar News*

HD Kumaraswamy *PHOTO: PTI*

We did not win by black magic: HDK

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

Riding high on the thumping victories in Bengaluru Rural and Mandya Lok Sabha seats, former chief minister and State JD(S) President HD Kumaraswamy lashed out at Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, saying the victories were achieved through the hard work of party workers and not by performing black magic.

Speaking to media persons, Kumaraswamy said, "With blessings of people and hard work of BJP and JD(S) workers, the seat of Bengaluru Rural has been won and not because of the Bhairavi Yagna." Shivakumar had indirectly alleged that Kumaraswamy indulged in conducting yagna against the Congress government and sacrificed animals in Kerala.

"We have not won after sacrificing buffalo, sheep or goat. The victory is achieved through the hard work of party workers. Congress candidates have lost the election in the native places of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DyCM Shivakumar," he said.

"The people have hugely blessed me in Mandya. The people have rejected Congres's attempt to wrestle the election with money power. Mandya is the place from where I derive my strength. With the efforts of JD(S) and BJP workers, our candidate in Kolar has also won," he stated. —*Salar News*

TABLES TURNED

6 sitting MPs defeated in K'taka

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

The election results of 28 Lok Sabha constituencies in Karnataka sprang several surprises. Voters showed their disapproval by unseating six incumbent MPs.

BJP's Bhagwant Khuba, the former MP from Bidar, was defeated by Sagar Khandre of Congress. Sagar, the son of minister Eshwar Khandre, secured victory in his debut Parliamentary contest, ending Khuba's hopes for a third consecutive win after triumphs in 2014 and 2019.

Umesh Jadhav, incumbent MP from Kalaburagi representing BJP, lost to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge's son in law Radhakrishna Doddamani of Congress. Jadhav's victory in the 2019 elections over Kharge to secure a seat in Parliament made this constituency a matter of pride for Kharge. Doddamani beat Umesh Jadhav with 6,52,321 votes. Doddamani is a businessman who also manages educational institutions. In Raichur, sitting MP Raja Amareshwar Naik of BJP lost to Congress candidate and former IAS officer G Kumar Naik. In Kittur, BJP's Anna Saheb Jolle, the incumbent MP from Chikkodi, faced defeat. Congress' Priyanka Jarkiholi, daughter of public works minister Satish Jarkiholi, celebrated her victory in her first attempt at entering Parliament.

A surprising result emerged in Bengaluru Rural constituency, which captured national attention. Incumbent MP DK Suresh of Congress was defeated by renowned State cardiologist and BJP candidate Dr Manjunath in the rural stronghold of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

—*Salar News*

Royal scion Yaduveer wins Mysuru

MYSURU, 4 JUNE

Mysuru Lok Sabha constituency witnessed erstwhile royal scion and BJP candidate Yaduveer Wodeyar win with a staggering 1,39,262 vote margin over Congress' M Laxman.

This victory marks a significant shift in the political landscape of the region, as the royal family takes the reins of power democratically.

Yaduveer's father Srikanta Datta Narasimharaja Wadiyar contested the 1991 Lok Sabha election as a BJP candidate and lost to Congress.

Meanwhile, Laxman, despite the backing of Congress, faced a crushing defeat with 6,56,241 votes.

Yaduveer Wodeyar *PHOTO: SALAR*

A nameplate bearing Yaduveer's name has been created by his followers which is also installed near his office. The nameplate was even worshipped at Chamundeshwari Temple in Mysuru.

—*Salar News*

Haunted by sex scandal, Prajwal loses in Hassan

HASSAN, 4 JUNE

Suspended Hassan JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of sexually abusing several women, lost the Lok Sabha elections to Shreyas M Patel of Congress by 42,549 votes on Tuesday.

Patel secured 6,72,988 votes and Revanna 6,30,339. The 33-year-old Revanna, who is the grandson of former prime minister and JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda, was the only one from JD(S) to win the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka.

Ahead of Lok Sabha elections on 26 April, a huge cache of explicit videos went viral showing women being sexually assaulted, allegedly by Prajwal. Soon after the polling, Prajwal left the country and was holed up in Germany for over a month. Taking note of the cases, the Karnataka government formed a Special Investigation Team, which arrested him on 31 May as soon as he landed at the Kempegowda International Airport here.

The police also arrested his father and Holenarasipura MLA HD Revanna on charges of kidnapping a woman who had figured in one of the explicit videos where she was sexually assaulted allegedly by Prajwal. Revanna was later released after a court granted him bail. His wife and Prajwal's mother Bhavani Revanna is absconding in the same kidnapping case.

Prajwal, won by a margin of 1.41 lakh votes against BJP candidate A Manju in 2019. This time, Prajwal faced anti-incumbency as a section of voters in Hassan claimed that their MP hardly listened to their problems and he hardly raised the issues concerning the constituency in Parliament. Four days before the polling, objectionable videos and photos purportedly related to Prajwal went viral in Hassan and this could have played a role in his defeat.

—*PTI*

JD(S) Hassan candidate Prajwal Revanna *PHOTO: PTI*

Bengaluru North poses challenges for Shobhakka

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

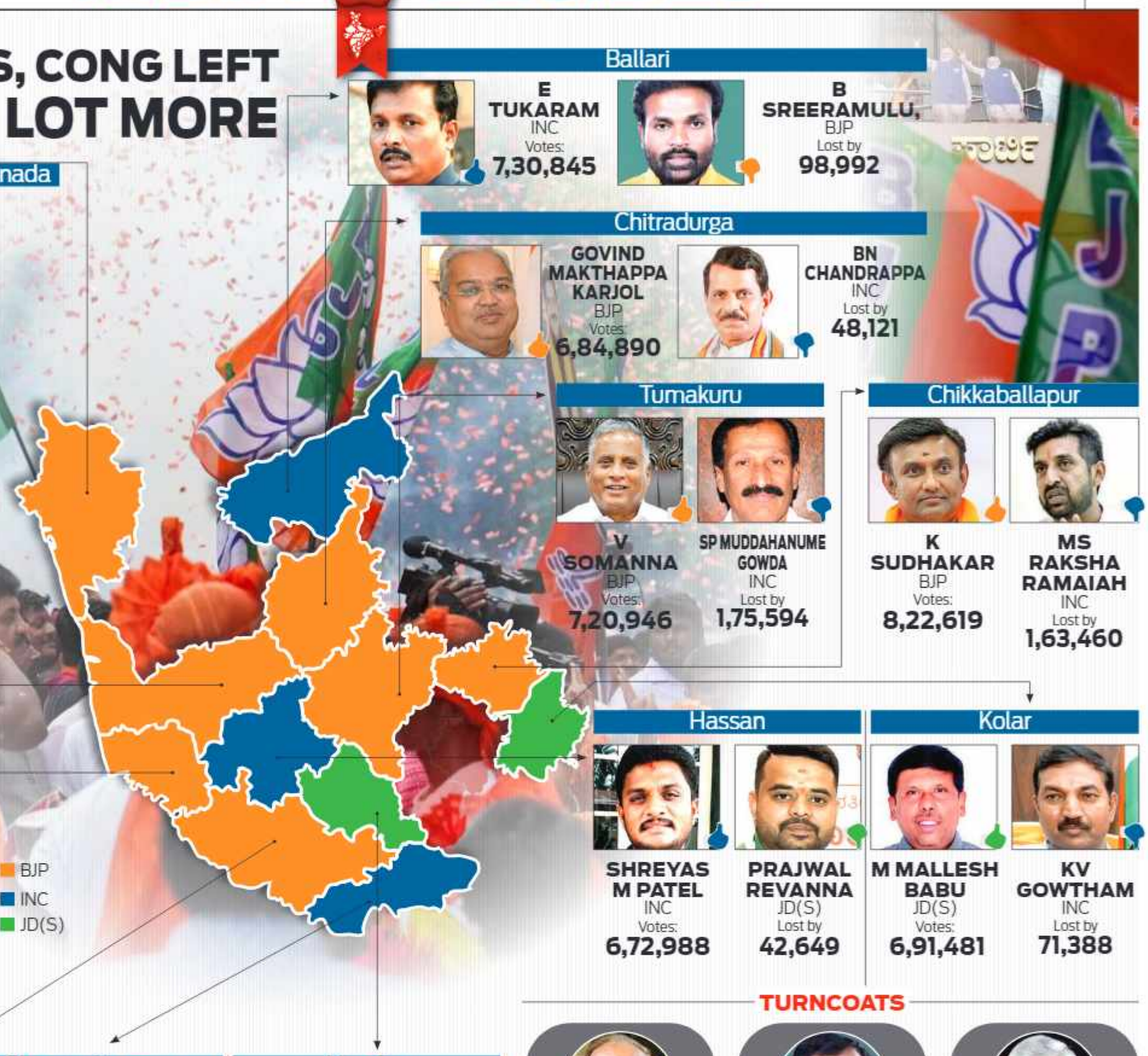
In a historic win, Shobha Karandlaje led the eight assembly segments in Bengaluru North of KR Puram, Byatarayanapura, Dasarahalli, Mahalakshmi Layout, and Yeshwanthpur.

This constituency mostly encounters pressing issues like the plight of thousands of small-scale industries in Peenya, which collectively employ nearly 12 lakh individuals and contribute Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000 crore in taxes annually. Despite their significant economic contributions, these industries grapple with inadequate infrastructure, including poor roads, unreliable electricity. Shobha's campaign had focused on the promise of transformative governance and received substantial support from BJP leaders —*Salar News*

CELEBRATIONS IN THE AIR

BJP & Congress supporters celebrate after winning 17 & 9 seats respectively in the State *PHOTOS: SALAR*

BJP TRIUMPHS, CONG LEFT WANTING A LOT MORE



Uttara Kannada

VISHWESHWAR HEGDE KAGERI
BJP
Votes: 7,82,495

DR ANJALI NIMBALKAR
INC
Lost by 3,37,428

Udupi-Chikkamagaluru

KOTA SRINIVAS POOJARY
BJP
Votes: 7,32,234

K JAYAPRAKASH HEGDE
INC
Lost by 25,9175

Dakshina Kannada

CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA
BJP
Votes: 7,64,132

PADMARAJ R POOJARY
INC
Lost by 1,49,208

Mysuru-Kodagu

YADUVEER CHAMARAJA WADIYAR
BJP
Votes: 7,95,503

M LAKSHMANA
INC
Lost by 1,39,262

Chamarajanagar

SUNIL BOSE
INC
Votes 7,51,671

BALARAJ S
BJP
Lost by 1,88,706

Mandya

HD KUMARASWAMY
JD(S)
Votes 8,51,881

STAR CHANDRU
INC
Lost by 2,84,620

Ballari

E TUKARAM
INC
Votes: 7,30,845

B SREERAMULU,
BJP
Lost by 98,992

Chitradurga

GOVIND MAKTHAPPA KARJOL
BJP
Votes: 6,84,890

BN CHANDRAPPA
INC
Lost by 48,121

Tumakuru

V SOMANNA
BJP
Votes: 7,20,946

SP MUDDAHANUME GOWDA
INC
Lost by 1,75,594

Chikkaballapur

K SUDHAKAR
BJP
Votes: 8,22,619

MS RAKSHA RAMAIAH
INC
Lost by 1,63,460

Hassan

SHREYAS M PATEL
INC
Votes: 6,72,988

PRAJWAL REVANNA
JD(S)
Lost by 42,649

Kolar

M MALLESH BABU
JD(S)
Votes: 6,91,481

KV GOWTHAM
INC
Lost by 71,388

TURNCOATS

KS Eshwarappa
Seat: Shivamogga

Left BJP and became independent candidate in April 2024.

Reason:
BJP expelled rebel leader Eshwarappa as he contested as an independent from Shivamogga. He blamed BS Yediyurappa for his son Kantesh not getting Lok Sabha ticket from Haveri

SP Muddahanumegowda
Seat: Tumakuru

Left BJP and joined Congress, in Feb 2024

Reason:
Muddahanumegowda returned to Congress ahead of LS polls. He had jumped ship to BJP in 2022, ahead of Assembly polls in 2023. He is claimed to have defected to BJP only to contest the polls.

Jayaprakash Hegde
Seat: Udupi-Chikkamagaluru

Left BJP and joined Congress, in March 2024

Reason:
Hegde was minister and chairman of Karnataka Backward Class Commission. He rejoined Congress, saying he wants to bring more development for coastal areas.

A new breath of life for JD(S)

In a do or die election, JD(S) won 2 out of 3 seats it contested

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

The win in two out of three seats it contested in the Lok Sabha polls has come as a morale booster to JD(S), smarting under the sex scandal allegedly involving its MP Prajwal Revanna that rocked the party.

Party State President HD Kumaraswamy won from Mandya while his nephew and sitting MP Prajwal, who is facing probe on charges of sexually abusing several women, failed to retain his Hassan seat.

The party candidate M Mallesh Babu won from Kolar.

JD(S) appeared to take the Prajwal's loss in its stride.

On his defeat, Kumaraswamy told reporters here: "It was known to all. Certain issues cannot be discussed openly. We will try to rectify things where we have lost".

This election was considered to be crucial for JD(S), after it registered its worst performance in over two decades, in the 2023 Assembly polls.

The regional party had witnessed a steep fall in its tally in the Assembly polls – from 37 in 2018 to 19 (out of total 224 seats) in 2023. Its vote share has dipped from 18.36 per cent in 2018 to 13.3 per cent. The party's worst-ever performance was in 1999 when it got 10.42 per cent votes following the split of the Janata Dal into JD(S) and JD(U).

Aimed at ensuring that the regional party wins the seats that were ceded to it, BJP leadership insisted that Kumaraswamy himself contest in one of the three seats, hoping that it will give momentum to his party's prospects in the other two seats, especially in the old Mysuru region, where the saffron party is considered to be relatively weak.

By winning two seats, JD(S) has sought to demonstrate that it's still a force to reckon with, particularly in the old Mysuru region) from where the regional party draws its strength from.

It is a role reversal of sorts for JD(S), as the party along with Congress, which were running a coalition government back then and fought the 2019 election together, had come a cropper winning just one seat each, out of total 28.

BJP and JD(S) alliance is said to have by and large clicked, thanks to ground level coordination and understanding among their workers.

—*PTI*

HD Kumaraswamy visits Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple in Bengaluru on Tuesday **PHOTO: SALAR**

THE GLORY OF VICTORY

BJP supporters during celebration of the party's success in the Lok Sabha elections, in Bengaluru, on Tuesday; State BJP Chief BY Vijayendra greets supporters in the City **PHOTOS: SALAR**

CONG MAKES A SURPRISE COMEBACK IN NORTH K'TAKA

Chikkodi

PRIYANKA SATISH JARKIHOLI
INC
Votes:
7,13,461

ANNASAHEB SHANKAR JOLLE
BJP
Lost by
90,834

Belagavi

JAGADISH SHETTAR
BJP
Votes:
7,12,307

MRINAL R HEBBALKAR
INC
Lost by
5,46,549

Haveri

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
BJP
Votes:
7,05,538

ANANDSWAMY GADDADEVARMATH
INC
Lost by
43,513

Dharwad

PRALHAD JOSHI
BJP
Votes:
7,16,231

VINOD ASOOTI
INC
Lost by
97,324

Shivamogga

BY RAGHAVENDRA
BJP
Votes:
7,78,721

GEETHA SHIVARAJKUMAR
INC
Lost by
2,43,715

Vijayapura

RAMESH JIGAJINAGI
BJP
Votes:
6,72,781

RAJU ALAGUR
INC
Lost by
77,229

Bagalkot

GADDIGOUDAR PARVATAGOUDA CHANDANAGOUDA
BJP
Votes:
6,71,039

SAMYUKTA SHIVANAND PATIL
INC
Lost by
68,399

Davangere

PRABHA MALLIKARJUN
INC
Votes:
6,33,059

GAYITHRI SIDDESHWARA
BJP
Lost by
26,094

Bidar

SAGAR ESHWAR KHANDRE
INC
Votes:
6,66,317

BHAGWANTH KHUBA
BJP
Lost by
1,28,875

Kalaburagi

RADHAKRISHNA DODDAMANI
INC
Votes:
6,52,321

UMESH G JADHAV
BJP
Lost by
27,205

Raichur

G KUMAR NAIK
INC
Votes:
6,70,966

RAJA AMERESHWARA NAIK
BJP
Lost by
79,781

Koppal

K RAJASHEKAR BASAVARAJ HITNAL
INC
Votes:
6,63,511

BASAVARAJ K SHARANAPPA
BJP
Lost by
46,713

TURNCOATS

Jagadish Shettar
Seat: Belagavi

- Left Congress and joined BJP in May 2024

Reason:
Jagadish Shettar, a key Lingayat leader, went back to BJP in January. Earlier he had left BJP and joined Congress just before 2023 Assembly polls. He contested the Assembly polls from Hubballi-Dharwad on Cong ticket, but lost the elections.

ST Somashekhar Gowda

- Left Congress & joined BJP in March 2024

Reason:
He had joined BJP in 2019 but in 2024 Rajya Sabha polls, the MLA from Yeshwanthpura cross-voted for Congress candidate landing himself in trouble with the BJP. Somashekhar campaigned for Bengaluru North candidate Rajeev Gowda.

Arbail Shivaram Hebbar

- Left Congress & joined BJP in 2019

Reason:
Shivaram Hebbar, BJP MLA from Yellapur, is reportedly planning to join Cong. This speculation started when he did not show up to vote for BJP candidate during RS polls in Feb. Shivaram's son, Vivek Hebbar joined Congress in Uttara Kannada district.

BJP candidate Pralhad Joshi celebrates with party MLAs after winning Dharwad, on Tuesday **PHOTO: PTI**

Cong's youngest candidate Sagar Khandre beats Khuba in Bidar

Bengaluru, 4 June

In one of the biggest surprises, Karnataka's youngest Congress candidate Sagar Khandre defeated senior BJP leader and Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Bhagwanth Khuba in Bidar. Khandre, 26, defeated Khuba with a handsome margin of 1.28 lakh votes. Khuba polled 5.37 lakh votes against Sagar who got 6.66 lakh votes. Khuba faced stiff internal Opposition before the announcement of the ticket by BJP. Sagar is the son of Minister for Forests Eshwar Khandre. —*Salar News*

3 ex-CMs to begin their innings in LS

This is Bommai & Shettar's 1st stint in LS

BENGALURU, 4 JUNE

Three former chief ministers from State—Basavaraj Bommai, Jagadish Shettar and HD Kumaraswamy – on Tuesday joined a long list of their predecessors who went on to play an innings in national politics by winning the Lok Sabha polls.

For Bommai and Shettar of BJP, this will be their first stint in the Lok Sabha, whereas Kumaraswamy, the JD(S) State President and son of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, has been a member of parliament in the past.

Of the total 28 Lok Sabha seats, BJP contested in 25 and JD(S), which joined the NDA in September last year, in three. There have been a total of 23 chief ministers of Karnataka (known as Mysore state before November one, 1973) since 1947; 14 of them have also served as members of Lok Sabha, and two in the Rajya Sabha.

Seven of them – KC Reddy, Kengal Hanumanthaiah, Veerendra Patil, Gundu Rao, S Bangarappa, Veerappa Moily and BS Yediyurappa – shifted to national politics by becoming MPs after demitting office. Bommai and Shettar will now join this list. An equal number became chief minister after their stint as parliamentarians – S Nijalingappa, HD Deve Gowda, JH Patel, SM Krishna, N Dharam Singh, HD Kumaraswamy and DV Sadananda Gowda.

Bommai's father SR Bommai and Ramakrishna Hegde had their Parliamentary innings as members of Rajya Sabha.

Kadidal Manjappa, BD Jatti, SR Kanthi, Devraj Urs, and incumbent Siddaramaiah are the chief ministers who have stayed away from national politics. Basavaraj Bommai, who was chief minister from July 2021 to May 2023, has won from the Haveri Lok Sabha seat, while Shettar, who won from the Belagavi seat, was chief minister from July 2012 to May 2013.

Kumaraswamy, who has won Lok Sabha polls from Mandya, was chief minister between May 2018 and July 2019, and from February 2006 to October 2007.

He, in fact, forayed into electoral politics by successfully contesting the Kanakapura Lok Sabha seat in 1996. In 2009 again he had successfully contested the Lok Sabha polls from Bengaluru Rural. —*PTI*

HD Kumaraswamy, Basavaraj Bommai and Jagadish Shettar **PHOTO: PTI**

KSE comes a cropper in Shivamogga after rebellion

SHIVAMOGGA, 4 JUNE

Expelled BJP leader KS Eshwarappa came a cropper forfeiting his security deposit in Shivamogga, where the party veteran BS Yediyurappa's son BY Raghavendra retained the seat by a margin of more than 2 lakh votes over Congress candidate Geetha Shivarajkumar.

Eshwarappa, a former deputy chief minister, who had also earlier served as the BJP's state unit President, secured 30,005 votes as against Raghavendra's 7,78,721. Geetha, who is the wife of Karnataka film star Shivarajkumar and daughter-in-law of Kannada thespian late Rajkumar, got 5,35,006 votes.

- He campaigned vigorously claiming that his fight is not against the BJP or Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While the stage was almost set for a contest between Raghavendra and Geetha, Eshwarappa rebelled against the party over the denial of ticket to his son KE Kantesh from neighbouring Haveri, and decided to contest here.

Eshwarappa, who hails from Shivamogga, had entered the fray as an independent, blaming Raghavendra's brother and state BJP President BY Vijayendra and Yediyurappa for his son being overlooked.

Eshwarappa, who was considered to be the 'Kuruba face' of BJP, remained steadfast on his decision to contest, spurning efforts by party leaders to pacify him.

The 75-year-old had campaigned vigorously claiming that his fight is not against BJP or Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but to "purify" the party in the state by setting it free from the clutches of Yediyurappa and sons.

He has accused them of trying to establish dynasty rule in the party, by sidelining several Hindutva leaders.

Eshwarappa was expelled by the party on 22 April for six years, after he refused to bow out of the poll race, accusing him of violating party discipline. Eshwarappa along with Yediyurappa and late HN Ananth Kumar is widely credited for building the BJP from the grassroots in Karnataka. —*PTI*

INDIA alliance makes a comeback in several Hindi heartland states

Congress led-block makes headway in Rajasthan, Bihar, Haryana, J'khand

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) alliance made a major comeback in several politically-crucial Hindi heartland states with the latest trend in counting of votes on Tuesday showing it ahead in Uttar Pradesh and registering steady headway in Rajasthan, Bihar, Haryana and Jharkhand.

However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP-led alliance is set to retain power for a third consecutive term but not with an overwhelming majority as predicted by various exit polls. The most unexpected performance put up by INDIA was in politically-crucial Uttar Pradesh where Samajwadi Party marched ahead in 37 seats and Congress in six, according to the trends.

BJP won 33 seats, its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal in two constituencies and Apna Dal (Soneylal) and Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) in one each.

Opposition's performance in Uttar Pradesh is being seen as a big surprise for BJP that had almost swept the polls in 2014 with a stunning performance of coming out victorious in 71 seats and held its ground in 2019 by winning 62.

The Indian alliance also made significant gains in Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar and Jharkhand but could not spring a surprise in Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh.

In Rajasthan, BJP won 14 seats, while Congress won eight while CPI(M), Rashtriya Loktantrik Party and Bharat Adivasi Party won one seat each.

INDIA also made inroads into Bihar with Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) being ahead in four seats, Congress in two seats, CPI(ML) in two seats. NDA is leading in 31 seats with BJP ahead in 12, JD(U) in 14 and Lok Janshakti Party(Ram Vilas) in five seats.

In Haryana, both Congress and BJP are ahead in five seats each, according to the latest rounds of vote count. BJP had won all 10 seats in 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

In Jharkhand too, INDIA alliance's Congress and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha were ahead in three and two seats respectively while BJP is leading in eight seats.

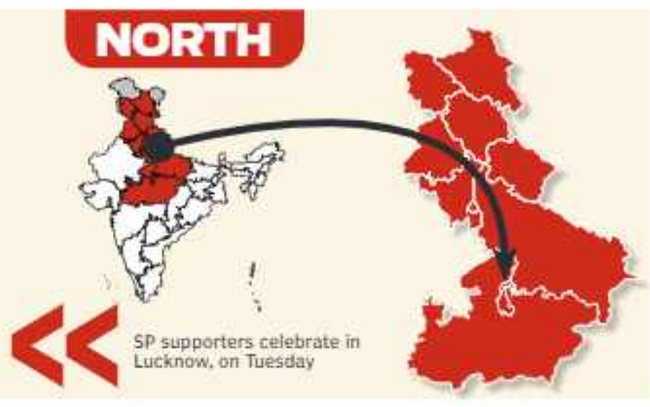
NDA continued its dominance in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Chhattisgarh.

In Chhattisgarh, BJP is leading in 10 seats while Congress is ahead in one, according to the trends. In 2019, BJP won 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh while Congress won one. In that year, BJP had won all four seats in Himachal Pradesh, all five in Uttarakhand, all seven in Delhi and nine out of 11 seats in Chhattisgarh.

Arvind Kejriwal blitzkrieg not enough to overwhelm BJP in Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal mounted a blazing campaign in the hot summer after he was released from the Tihar jail on interim bail on 10 May, drawing huge crowds at rallies and roadshows, but it proved insufficient to propel his Aam Aadmi Party past BJP challenge in the national capital.

However, the massive turnout at his rallies could not translate into votes. —*PTI*



SP supporters celebrate in Lucknow, on Tuesday

BIG WINNERS

RAJNATH SINGH
BJP, LUCKNOW
Votes: 6,12,709
MARGIN: 1,35,159

KISHORI LAL
INC, AMETHI
Votes: 5,39,228
MARGIN: 1,67,196

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA
BJP, GUNA
Votes: 9,23,302
MARGIN: 5,40,929

CHARANJIT CHANNI
INC, JALANDHAR
Votes: 3,90,053
MARGIN: 1,75,993

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN
BJP, VIDISHA
Votes: 11,16,460
MARGIN: 8,21,408

KANGANA RANAUT
BJP, MANDI
Votes: 5,37,022
MARGIN: 7,47,55

ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH
IND, BARAMULLA
Votes: 4,72,481
MARGIN: 2,04,142

AMRITPAL SINGH
IND, KHADOOR
Votes: 4,04,430
MARGIN: 1,97,120

BIG LOSERS

KANHAIYA KUMAR
INC, NORTH EAST DELHI
Votes: 6,85,673
MARGIN: 1,38,778

OMAR ABDULLAH
IND, BARAMULLA
Votes: 2,68,339
MARGIN: 2,04,142

MEHBOOBA MUFTI
JKPDP, ANANTHNAG
Votes: 2,40,042
MARGIN: 2,81,794

DIGVIJAY SINGH
INC, RAJGARH
Votes: 6,12,654
MARGIN: 1,46,089

MANEKA GANDHI
INC, JALANDHAR
Votes: 4,01,156
MARGIN: 43,174

SANJAY TANDON
BJP, CHANDIGARH
Votes: 2,14,153
MARGIN: 2,504

NAKUL NATH
BJP, CHHINDWARA
Votes: 5,31,120
MARGIN: 1,13,618

TSERING NAMGYAL
INC, LADAKH
Votes: 37,397
MARGIN: 27,862

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

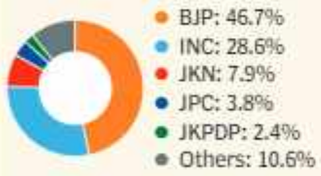
TOTAL SEATS: 5

JKN: 2 | BJP: 2 | IND: 1

BJP:	24.36%
JKN:	22.30%
INC:	19.38%
JKPDP:	8.48%
NOTA:	0.67%
Others:	24.81%

2019 VOTE SHARE

TOTAL SEATS 6
BJP: 3 | JKN: 3



- BJP: 46.7%
- INC: 28.6%
- JKN: 7.9%
- JPC: 3.8%
- JKPDP: 2.4%
- Others: 10.6%

PUNJAB

TOTAL SEATS: 13

INC: 7 | AAP: 3 | SAD: 1 | IND: 2

INC:	26.30%
BJP:	18.56%
AAP:	26.02%
SAD:	13.42%
NOTA:	0.49%
OTHERS:	15.21%

2019 VOTE SHARE

TOTAL SEATS 13
Congress: 8 | SAD: 2
BJP: 2 | AAP: 1

- Congress: 40.6%
- SAD: 27.8%
- BJP: 9.7%
- AAP: 7.5%
- BSP: 3.5%
- Others: 10.9%

2024 VOTE SHARE 2019

HIMACHAL PRADESH

TOTAL SEATS: 4

BJP: 4

BJP:	56.44%
INC:	41.67%
BSP:	0.52%
NOTA:	0.57%
Others:	0.80%

SEATS WON
BJP: 4

- BJP: 69.7%
- Congress: 27.5%
- BSP: 0.9%
- CPI(M): 0.4%
- FBL: 0.2%
- Others: 1.3%

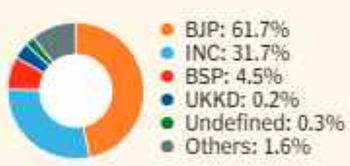
UTTARAKHAND

TOTAL SEATS: 5

BJP: 5

BJP:	56.81%
INC:	32.83%
BSP:	1.81%
NOTA:	1.09%
OTHERS:	7.46%

SEATS WON
BJP: 5



- BJP: 61.7%
- INC: 31.7%
- BSP: 4.5%
- UKKD: 0.2%
- Undefined: 0.3%
- Others: 1.6%

HARYANA

TOTAL SEATS: 10

BJP: 5 | INC: 4 |

BJP:	46.11%
INC:	43.67%
AAP:	3.94%
INLD:	1.74%
NOTA:	0.33%
OTHERS:	4.21%

SEATS WON
BJP: 10

- BJP: 58.2%
- INC: 28.5%
- JJP: 4.9%
- BSP: 3.6%
- INLD: 1.9%
- Others: 2.9%

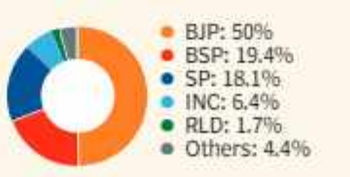
UTTAR PRADESH

TOTAL SEATS: 80

BJP: 33 | INC: 6 | SP: 37 | RLD: 2 | ASPKR: 1 | ADAL: 1

BJP:	41.37%
SP:	33.59%
INC:	9.46%
BSP:	9.39%
NOTA:	0.72%
OTHERS:	5.47%

SEATS WON
BJP: 62 | BSP: 10 | SP: 5 | ADS: 2
INC: 1



- BJP: 50%
- BSP: 19.4%
- SP: 18.1%
- INC: 6.4%
- RLD: 1.7%
- Others: 4.4%

MADHYA PRADESH

TOTAL SEATS: 29

BJP: 29

BJP:	59.27%
INC:	32.44%
BSP:	3.28%
NOTA:	1.41%
OTHERS:	3.46%

SEATS WON
BJP: 28 | INC: 1

- BJP: 58.5%
- INC: 34.8%
- BSP: 2.4%
- CPI: 0.3%
- GGP: 0.3%
- Others: 3.7%

CHANDIGARH

TOTAL SEATS: 1

| INC: 1 |

INC:	48.23%
BJP:	47.66%
OTHERS:	1.97%
BSP:	1.49%
NOTA:	0.65%

SEATS WON
BJP: 1

- BJP: 51.1%
- INC: 40.7%
- AAP: 3%
- BSP: 1.6%
- Others: 2.9%

DELHI

TOTAL SEATS: 7

BJP – 7

BJP -	54.35%
AAP -	24.17%
INC -	18.91%
BSP -	0.70%
NOTA -	0.51%
OTHERS -	1.37%

2019 VOTE SHARE

SEATS WON
BJP: 7

- BJP: 56.9
- INC: 22.6%
- BSP: 1.1%
- AAP: 0.1%
- MKDVP: 0.1%
- Others: 19.2%

LADAKH

TOTAL SEATS: 1

IND: 1

BJP -	23.76%
INC -	26.97%
NOTA -	0.68%
OTHERS -	48.59%

LADAKH WINNER

Independent candidate Mohmad Haneefa won Ladakh by defeating Congress candidate Tsering Namgyal by 27,906 votes.

DMK SCORES A CENTUM, LOTUS BLOOMS IN KERALA

CHENNAI/T'PURAM, 4 JUNE

'Baahubali,' that was what Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said to describe the turnout for the Coimbatore rally addressed by him and Congress top leader Rahul Gandhi in April and said the "total BJP was trumped," by that single public meeting.

With the DMK and allies far ahead in all the 39 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state and 1 in neighbouring Puducherry, it appears the outcome, for the Stalin-led Dravidian party will be similar to the success of the popular flick Baahubali.

The streak of electoral success for Stalin steered alliance began in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and since then, be it civic polls or the 2021 Assembly elections, it has been a sweet win for DMK, Congress and other allies including the Left parties.

Slogans like "PM Modi visits the state only for votes, exploitative GST regime besides AIADMK's secret alliance with BJP, the Centre attempting to intimidate DMK regime by using Governor RN Ravi" all appeared to have clicked with the electorate.

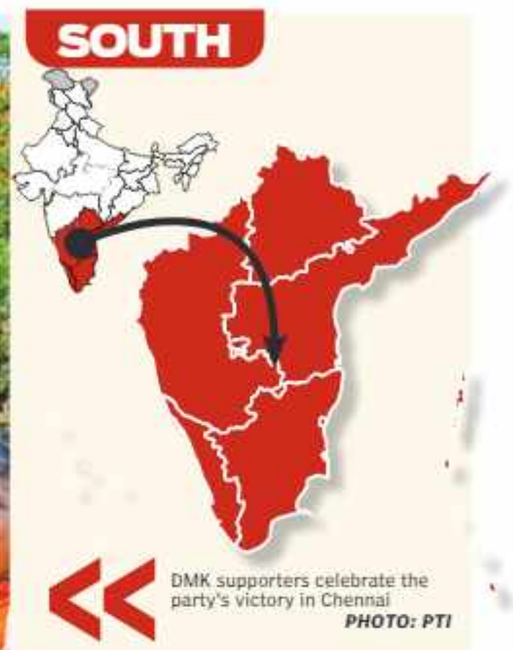
He often described the 2024 LS polls as the "second freedom movement" and reiterated the election is about deciding "whose regime must not continue," rather than who should capture power.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu's neighbour Kerala saw BJP making its debut with the Suresh Gopi act. Actor turned politician Gopi, winner from Thrissur, helped the party open its Lok Sabha account with a margin of 74,686 votes against CPI's VS Sunilkumar. Gopi received a total of 4,12,338 votes.

Gopi's win would put an end to the over seven decades-long political drought in Kerala for BJP.

The trend comes as a rude shock for the ruling CPI (M)-led LDF and Congress-headed UDF which even rubbished till the last minute, the various exit polls that predicted a Gopi show and the chances of lotus blooming in the southern state.

—PTI



DMK supporters celebrate the party's victory in Chennai *PHOTO: PTI*

BIG WINNERS

SHASHI THAROOR
INC, T'PURAM
Votes: 3,58,155
MARGIN: 16,077

KC VENUGOPAL
INC, ALAPPUZHA
Votes: 4,04,560
MARGIN: 63,513

SURESH GOPI
BJP, THRISSUR
Votes: 4,12,338
MARGIN: 74,686

ASADUDDIN OWAISI
AIMIM, HYDERABAD
Votes: 6,61,981
MARGIN: 3,38,087

KANIMOZHI K
DMK, THOOTHUKKUDI
Votes: 5,40,729
MARGIN: 3,92,738

KARTI P CHIDAMBARAM
INC, SIVAGANGA
Votes: 4,27,677
MARGIN: 2,05,664

G KISHAN REDDY
BJP, SECUNDERABAD
Votes: 4,73,012
MARGIN: 49,944

RAMMOHAN NAIDU
TDP, SRIKAKULAM
Votes: 7,54,328
MARGIN: 3,27,901

BIG LOSERS

TAMILISAI S
BJP, CHENNAI SOUTH
Votes: 2,90,683
MARGIN: 2,25,945

ANNAMALAI K
BJP, COIMBATORE
Votes: 4,50,132
MARGIN: 1,18,068

YS SHARMILA REDDY
INC, KADAPA
Votes: 1,41,039
MARGIN: 4,64,104

VENKATA ROSAIAH
YSRCP, GUNTUR
Votes: 5,20,253
MARGIN: 3,44,695

SHAILAJA TEACHER
CPI(M), VADAKARA
Votes: 4,43,022
MARGIN: 1,14,506

AROORI RAMESH
BJP, WARANGAL
Votes: 3,60,955
MARGIN: 2,20,339

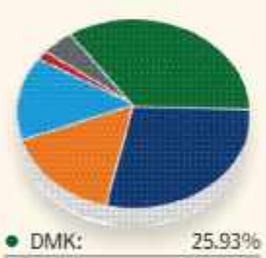
VARA PRASAD RAO
BJP, THIRUPATHI
Votes: 6,17,659
MARGIN: 14,569

JEEVANREDDY
INC, NIZAMABAD
Votes: 4,83,077
MARGIN: 1,09,241

2024 VOTE SHARE 2019

TAMIL NADU

TOTAL SEATS: 39
DMK- 18 | INC- 5 | VCK- 2 | CPI-2, CPI(M)- 2 | MDMK- 1 | IUML-1



DMK:	25.93%
ADMK:	20.46%
BJP:	11.24%
INC:	10.67%
NOTA:	1.06%
OTHERS:	30.64%

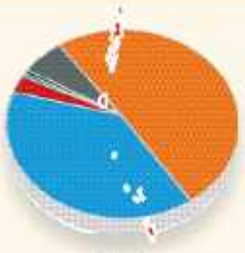
2019 VOTE SHARE

SEATS WON
DMK: 23 | INC: 8
CPI: 2 | CPI (M): 2 | IML: 1
| OTHERS: 2

- DMK: 33.2%
- INC: 12.9%
- AIADMK: 18.7%
- PMK: 5.5%
- NAAM TAMILAR KATHCI: 3.9%
- Others: 25.8%

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

TOTAL SEATS: 1



BJP – 1

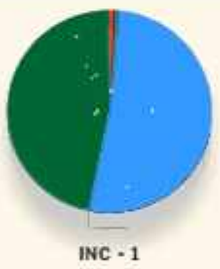
BJP -	50.59%
INC -	38.53%
CPI(M) -	2.97%
ADMK -	0.45%
NOTA -	0.89%
OTHERS -	6.56%

SEATS WON
INC 1

- INC: 46.3%
- BJP: 45.6%
- AAP: 1.4%
- BSP: 1.2%
- AITC: 0.8%
- Others: 4.7%

LAKSHADWEEP

TOTAL SEATS: 1



INC - 1

INC -	52.24%
NCPSP -	46.96%
NCP-	0.41%
NOTA-	0.27%
OTHERS -	0.8%

SEATS WON
NCP: 1

- NCP: 48.7%
- INC: 47.0%
- JD(U): 2.9%
- CPI(M): 0.9%
- CPI: 0:3%
- Others: 0.2%

PUDUCHERRY

TOTAL SEATS: 1

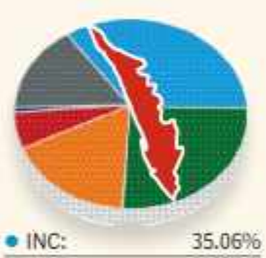
INC -	52.74%
BJP -	35.81%
ADMK -	3.11%
NOTA -	1.21%
BSP -	0.19%
OTHERS -	6.94%

SEATS WON
INC: 1

- INC: 57.2%
- AINRC: 31.8%
- MNM: 4.9%
- Naam Tamilar Katchi: 2.9%
- BSP: 0.3%
- Others: 2.9%

KERALA

TOTAL SEATS: 20
INC- 14 | IUML- 2 | CPI(M)- 1 | BJP 1
KEC- 1 | RSP- 1



INC:	35.06%
CPI(M):	25.82%
BJP:	16.68%
CPI:	6.14%
NOTA:	0.79%
OTHERS:	15.51%

2019 VOTE SHARE

SEATS WON
INC: 15 | IML: 2
| CPI (M): 1 | RCP: 1 | KCM: 1

- INC: 37.5%
- CPI (M): 26.0%
- BJP: 13.0%
- CPI: 6.1%
- IML: 5.5%
- Others: 11.9%

ANDHRA PRADESH

TOTAL SEATS: 25
TDP - 16 | YSRCP - 4 | BJP- 3 | JnP- 2

YSRCP -	39.61%
TDP -	37.79%
BJP -	11.28%
INC -	2.66%
NOTA -	1.20%
OTHERS –	7.46%

2019 VOTE SHARE

SEATS WON
YSRCP : 22 | TDP: 3

- YSRCP: 49.9%
- TDP: 40.2%
- JNP: 5.9%
- INC: 1.3%
- BJP: 1.0%
- Others: 1.7%

Pawan Kalyan secures NDA victory in Andhra, BRS decimated in T'gana

HYDERABAD/ AMRAVATI, 4 JUNE

If the just concluded Assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh can be equated to a sporting contest, it will be Janasena Party Chief Pawan Kalyan who could walk away with "man of the match" award for ensuring NDA's stupendous show.

Despite humiliating personal defeats at Bhimavaram and Gajuwaka Assembly segments in the 2019 polls, Kalyan relentlessly strived to forge an alliance between his party, the N Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP and BJP.

As part of a seat sharing deal among NDA partners, TDP contested from 144 Assembly and 17 Lok Sabha constituencies while BJP put out candidates in six parliamentary and 10 Assembly seats. Janasena contested two Lok Sabha and 21 Assembly seats and is leading in all the segments.

And NDA was in the process of securing comfortable victories in both. Following the YSR Congress's defeat, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy tendered his resignation to Governor S Abdul Nazeer, official sources said. Meanwhile, in Telangana which celebrated 10 years of its formation, AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi won against his nearest BJP rival K Madhavi Latha in Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency.

The BJP candidates were leading in Adilabad (ST), Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Medak, Secunderabad, Malkajgiri, Chevella and Mahabubnagar LS seats.

The Congress nominees were leading in Peddapalle (SC), Mahabubabad (ST), Warangal (SC), Bhongir, Khammam, Nalgonda, Nagarkurnool (SC) and Zaheerabad. The K Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS appeared to have been decimated as the party was not leading in any of the constituencies. The party had won nine seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

BRS had suffered a defeat in the Legislative Assembly polls held in November last year.

The BJP had won four seats, while Congress bagged three constituencies in the 2019 general elections.

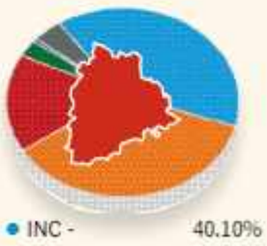
—PTI

TDP supporters celebrate party's lead in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly polls and Lok Sabha polls, in Hyderabad *PHOTO: PTI*

TELANGANA

TOTAL SEATS: 17

BJP - 8 | INC - 8 | AIMIM – 1



INC -	40.10%
BJP -	35.08%
BHRS -	16.68%
AIMIM -	3.02%
NOTA -	0.47%
OTHERS –	4.64%

SEATS WON
TRS: 9 | BJP: 4 | INC: 3
AIMMI: 1

2019 VOTE SHARE

- TRS: 41.7%
- INC: 29.8%
- BJP: 19.7%
- AIMIM: 2.8%
- JNP: 0.5%
- Others: 5.5%

INDIA DECIDES

ELECTION RESULT 2024

SALAR | WEDNESDAY | 5 JUNE 2024
DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

8

Mamata rocks, Modi shocked

In a thumping victory, TMC won 29 seats, leaving a confident BJP with just 13

KOLKATA, 4 JUNE

The TMC maintained its dominance in West Bengal as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee led her party to a resounding victory and dealing a blow to the BJP target of securing 35 seats as they just managed to reach double digits.

TMC won 29 Lok Sabha seats, while the BJP struggled to reach double digits and settled with 13 seats, Congress won just one seat.

As TMC's leads translate into results, the party is set for its second-best performance in the state, following its 2014 victory when it won 34 seats.

Despite facing a barrage of challenges including corruption allegations and internal conflicts, the TMC stood strong, even after opting to go solo post its withdrawal from the INDIA bloc in the state.

The TMC swept the Gangetic plains, which comprises five districts of North & South 24 Parganas, Kolkata, Howrah, and Hooghly, by winning 14 of the 16 Lok Sabha seats.

The BJP's tally was down from three to two in this region.

TMC candidate and sitting MP Abhishek Banerjee scored a hattrick in Diamond Harbour over his nearest rival, BJP's Abhijit Das, by a record margin of 710,360 votes, probably the highest-ever margin in Bengal in the last few decades.

The BJP, hoping to make a strong statement in Basirhat constituency which includes Sandeshkhali, saw its candidate Rekha Patra defeated by TMC veteran Haji Nurul Islam by nearly two lakh votes.

In Krishnanagar, Mahua Moitra, who was expelled last year from Lok Sabha in the cash-for-query scam, was leading by an irreversible margin of 57,083 votes over her nearest BJP rival, Amrita Roy. —*PTI*

A TMC supporter from Howrah celebrates in Kolkata on Tuesday PHOTO: PTI

BIG WINNERS

ABHISHEK BANNERJEE
TMC, DIAMOND HARBOUR
Votes: 10,48,230
MARGIN: 7,10,930

MAHUA MOITRA
TMC, KRISHNANAGAR
Votes: 6,28,789
MARGIN: 56,705

SAMBIT PATRA
BJP, PURI
Votes: 6,29,330
MARGIN: 1,04,709

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
BJP, PATNA SAHIB
Votes: 5,88,270
MARGIN: 1,53,846

NISHIKANT DUBEY
BJP, GODDA
Votes: 6,93,140
MARGIN: 1,01,813

ANGOMCHA AKOIJAM
INC, INNER MANIPUR
Votes: 3,74,017
MARGIN: 1,09,801

KIREN RIJIJU
BJP, ARUNACHAL PRADESH
Votes: 2,05,417
MARGIN: 1,00,738

SALENG A SANGMA
INC, TURA
Votes: 3,83,919
MARGIN: 1,55,241

BIG LOOSERS

LOCKET CHATTERJEE
BJP, HOOGLY
Votes: 6,25,891
MARGIN: 76,853

DILIP GHOSH
BJP, DURGAPUR
Votes: 5,82,686
MARGIN: 1,37,981

MANMATH ROUTHRAY
BJD, BHUBANESHWAR
Votes: 4,77,367
MARGIN: 35,152

ROHINI ACHARYA
RJD, SARAN
Votes: 4,58,091
MARGIN: 13,661

ARJUN MUNDA
BJP, KHUNTI
Votes: 3,61,972
MARGIN: 1,49,675

KACHUI ZIMIK
BJP, OUTER MANIPUR
Votes: 2,99,536
MARGIN: 85,418

BOSIRAM SIRAM
INC, ARUNACHAL EAST
Votes: 1,15,160
MARGIN: 30,421

KAWASI LAKHMA
INC, BASTAR
Votes: 4,03,153
MARGIN: 55,245

2024 VOTE SHARE 2019

WEST BENGAL

TOTAL SEATS: 42

AITC: 29 | BJP: 11 | INC: 1

AITC:	45.76%
BJP:	38.73%
CPI(M):	5.67%
INC:	4.68%
NOTA:	0.87%
OTHERS:	3.45%

2019 VOTE SHARE

SEATS WON

TMC: 22 | BJP: 18 | Congress: 2

- TMC: 43.7%
- BJP: 40.6%
- CPI(M): 6.3%
- Congress: 5.7%
- BSP: 0.4%
- Others: 3.3%

BIHAR

TOTAL SEATS: 40

BJP: 12 | JDU: 12| CPI(M): 2| LJPRV: 5 | RJD: 4| Congress: 3 | Others: 1

RJD:	22.14%
BJP:	20.52%
JD(U):	18.52%
INC:	9.20%
NOTA:	2.07%
OTHERS:	27.55%

2019 VOTE SHARE

SEATS WON

BJP: 17 | JD (U): 16 | LJP: 6 | Congress: 1

- BJP: 24.1%
- JD (U): 22.3%
- RJD: 15.7%
- LJP: 8%
- Congress: 7.9%
- Others: 22%

ODISHA

TOTAL SEATS: 21

BJP- 19, INC- 1

BJP:	45.34%
BJD:	37.53%
INC:	12.52%
OTHERS:	2.77%
NOTA:	1.30%
JMM:	0.54%

2019 VOTE SHARE

SEATS WON

BJD: 12 | BJP: 8 | Congress: 1

- BJD: 43.3%
- BJP: 38.9%
- Congress:14%
- BSP: 0.8%
- JMM:0.6%
- Others: 2.4%

ASSAM

TOTAL SEATS: 14

BJP: 9, INC: 3, UPPL: 1, AGP: 1

BJP:	37.43%
INC:	37.48%
AIUDF:	3.13%
UPPL:	2.43%
NOTA:	1.19%
OTHERS:	18.34%

SEATS WON

BJP: 9 | Congress: 3 | AIUDF: 1 | Others: 1

- BJP: 36.4%
- Congress: 35.8%
- AGP: 8.3%
- AIUDF: 7.9%
- BPF: 2.5%
- Others: 9.1%

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

TOTAL SEATS: 2

BJP: 2

BJP -	48.87%
INC -	30.37%
NOTA -	0.98%
Others -	19.77%

SEATS WON

BJP: 2

- AIUDF: 35.6%
- BJP: 31.1%
- Congress: 20.9%
- JD(S): 4.9%
- PPA: 2.3%
- Others: 5.2%

MEGHALAYA

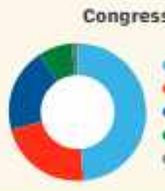
TOTAL SEATS: 2

VOTPP - 1 | INC - 1

- INC - 34.05%
- VOTPP - 33.40%
- NPEP - 24.22%
- AITC - 2.85%
- NOTA - 0.98%
- OTHERS – 4.50%

SEATS WON

Congress: 1 | NPEP: 1



- Congress: 48.7%
- NPEP: 22.4%
- UDP: 19.7%
- BJP: 8%
- Others: 1.2%

MIZORAM

TOTAL SEATS: 1

ZPM – 1

ZPM -	42.39%
MNF -	28.66%
INC -	20.08%
BJP -	6.78%
NOTA -	0.38%
OTHERS -	1.71%

SEATS WON

MNF: 1

- MNF: 45.1%
- BJP: 5.8%
- PRISM: 2.7%
- Others: 46.4%

NAGALAND

TOTAL SEATS: 1

INC - 1

INC -	52.76%
NDPP -	46.24%
NOTA -	0.20%
OTHERS -	0.80%

SEATS WON

NDPP: 1

- NDPP: 49.8%
- Congress: 48.2%
- NPEP: 1.5%
- Others: 0.5%

SIKKIM

TOTAL SEATS: 1

SKM – 1

SKM -	42.52%
SDF -	20.46%
BJP -	5.09%
NOTA -	0.66%
INC -	0.59%
OTHERS -	30.68%

SEATS WON

SKM: 1

- SKM: 47.8%
- SDF: 44.2%
- BJP: 4.7%
- Congress: 1.1%
- HMSKP: 0.6%
- Others: 1.6%

TRIPURA

TOTAL SEATS: 2

BJP- 2

BJP:	70.72%
CPI(M):	12.44%
INC:	11.49%
NOTA:	1.41%
OTHERS:	3.94%

SEATS WON

BJP: 2

- BJP: 49.6%
- Congress: 25.6%
- CPI (M): 17.5%
- IPFT: 4.2%
- AMB: 0.5%
- Others: 2.6%

JHARKHAND

TOTAL SEATS: 14

BJP: 8 | Congress: 2 | JMM: 3 | AJSUP: 1

BJP:	44.60%
INC:	19.19%
JMM:	14.60%
AJSUP:	2.62%
NOTA:	1.14%
OTHERS:	17.85%

2019 VOTE SHARE

SEATS WON

BJP: 11 | Congress: 1 | JMM: 1 | AJSU: 1

- BJP: 51.6%
- Congress: 15.8%
- JMM: 11.7%
- JVM: 5.1%
- AJSU: 4.4%
- Others: 11.4%

CHHATTISGARH

TOTAL SEATS: 11

BJP: 10 | Congress: 1

BJP:	52.65%
INC:	41.06%
BSP:	1.16%
OTHERS:	3.99%
NOTA:	0.90%
CPI:	0.24%

2019 VOTE SHARE

SEATS WON

BJP: 9 Congress: 2

- BJP: 51.4%
- Congress: 41.5%
- BSP: 2.3%
- GGP:0.6%
- SHS: 0.4%
- Others: 3.8%

MANIPUR

TOTAL SEATS: 2

INC: 2

INC -	47.59%
NPF -	18.87%
BJP -	16.58%
NOTA -	0.65%
OTHERS -	16.31%

2019 VOTE SHARE

SEATS WON

BJP: 1 NPF: 1

- BJP: 34.3%
- Congress: 24.7%
- NPF: 22.6%
- CPI: 8.3%
- NEIDP: 2.3%
- Others: 7.8%

Cong ends 10-year jinx in Gujarat

Lotus blooms in Konkan; BJP's Naik wins for sixth time straight in Goa

AHMEDABAD, 4 JUNE

Congress on Tuesday broke its decade-long jinx in Gujarat as its candidate Geniben Thakor won from Banaskantha Lok Sabha seat by more than 30,000 votes.

Congress had drawn a blank in the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi both in 2014 and 2019 when BJP had swept all 26 seats. This time, BJP is poised to win 25 seats.

Thakor defeated BJP's Rekha Chaudhari by 30,406 votes in a nail-biting contest. Thakor polled 6,71,883 votes against her rival's 6,41,477.

Meanwhile, in Maharashtra, Union minister and BJP candidate Narayan Rane said "lotus has finally bloomed in Konkan" as he looked set to win from the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra. BJP has never won any seat in the Konkan region. State Congress President Nana Patole said his party has sought a recount of votes in northern Maharashtra's Dhule constituency as the Opposition's Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) was set to win more seats than the ruling Mahayuti coalition in the state.

Union Minister, BJP candidate Nitin Gadkari and wife Kanchan *PHOTO: PTI*

Union minister Nitin Gadkari won from Nagpur Lok Sabha constituency for the third time in a row, defeating his nearest Congress rival by a margin of 1,37, 603 votes.

BJP's Mansukh Mandaviya rose through the party ranks to become the Union health minister at a time when the entire country was in grip of COVID pandemic.

In Goa, BJP candidate and Union Minister Shripad Naik registered his sixth consecutive victory from the North Goa Lok Sabha constituency, while war veteran Viriato Fernandes of the Congress defeated his nearest rival from the ruling saffron.

Congress's South Goa candidate Viriato Fernandes had earlier claimed the Constitution was "forced" on Goa after its liberation from the Portuguese rule in 1961. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had called the comments appalling and said Congress is a threat to democracy. Fernandes was then part of an NGO, which was pressing for dual citizenship for Goans who have opted for Portuguese passports. *—PTI*

Om Birla 1st LS speaker to be voted MP

New Delhi, 4 June

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla won Kota parliamentary seat by a margin of more than 41,139 votes on Tuesday, thus becoming the first presiding officer in 20 years to be re-elected to the Lower House. In 2019, BJP's Birla, Lok Sabha member from Kota, was elected as the speaker. In 2024, Birla defeated Congress's Prahlad Gunjal to retain the Kota seat. *—PTI*

BIG WINNERS

AMIT SHAH
BJP, GANDHINAGAR
Votes: 10,10,972
MARGIN: 7,44,716

PIYUSH GOYAL
BJP, MUMBAI NORTH
Votes: 6,80,146
MARGIN: 3,57,608

SUPRIYA SULE
NCP, BARAMATI
Votes: 7,32,312
MARGIN: 1,58,333

NITIN GADKARI
BJP, NAGPUR
Votes: 6,55,027
MARGIN: 1,37,603

OM BIRLA
BJP, KOTA
Votes: 7,50,496
MARGIN: 41,974

BIG LOSERS

AMIT CHAVDA
INC, ANAND
Votes: 5,22,545
MARGIN: 89,939

VAIBHAV GEHLOT
INC, JALORE
Votes: 5,95,240
MARGIN: 2,01,543

RAMAKANT KHALAP
INC, NORTH GOA
Votes: 1,41,311
MARGIN: 1,16,015

LALUBHAI PATEL
BJP, DAMAN & DIU
Votes: 36,298
MARGIN: 6,225

MAHENDRAJEETSINGH MALVIYA
INC, BANSWARA
Votes: 5,73,777
MARGIN: 2,47,054

2024 ⌄⌄ VOTE SHARE 2019 ⌄⌄

MAHARASHTRA
TOTAL SEATS 48
BJP: 10 | INC: 13 | SHSUBT: 9 | SHS: 7 | NCPSP: 7 | NCP: 1 | IND: 1

- BJP: 26.15%
- INC: 16.96%
- NCPSP: 10.81%
- SHS: 12.98%
- NOTA: 0.73%
- Others: 16.24%

SEATS WON
BJP: 23 | SHS: 18 | NCP: 4 | AIMIM: 1 | IND: 1 | Others: 1

- BJP: 27.8%
- SHS: 23.5%
- INC: 16.4%
- NCP: 15.7%
- VBA: 7%
- Others: 9.6%

GUJARAT
TOTAL SEATS 26
BJP: 25 | INC: 1

- BJP: 61.86%
- INC: 31.24%
- AAP: 2.69%
- NOTA: 1.56%
- BSP: 0.76%
- Others: 1.9%

SEATS WON
BJP: 26

- BJP: 63.1%
- INC: 32.6%
- BSP: 0.9%
- BTP: 0.6%
- NCP: 0.1%
- Others: 2.7%

RAJASTHAN
TOTAL SEATS 25
BJP: 14 | INC: 8 | CPI(M): 1 | RLTP: 1 | BHRTADVSIP: 1 |

- BJP: 49.24%
- INC: 37.91%
- CPI(M): 1.97%
- RLTP: 1.80%
- NOTA: 0.84%
- Others: 8.25%

SEATS WON
BJP: 24 | RLP: 1

- BJP: 59.1%
- INC: 34.6%
- RLP: 2.1%
- BSP: 1.1%
- BTP: 1%
- Others: 2.1%

2024 ⌄⌄ VOTE SHARE 2019 ⌄⌄

GOA
TOTAL SEATS 2
BJP: 1 | INC: 1

- BJP: 50.79%
- INC: 39.71%
- RVLTGONP: 7.15%
- NOTA: 1.24%
- BSP: 0.35%
- Others: 0.75%

SEATS WON
BJP: 1 | Congrss: 1

- BJP: 51.9%
- INC: 43.6%
- AAP: 3.1%
- RPI(K): 0.3%
- VBA: 0.2%
- Others: 0.9%

DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU
TOTAL SEATS 2
BJP: 1 | IND: 1

- BJP: 52.79%
- INC: 25.9%
- NOTA: 2.6%
- BSP: 1.6%
- Others: 19%

SEATS WON
BJP: 1

- BJP: 41.5%
- INC: 4.4%
- SHS: 2%
- BMUP: 0.8%
- NBP_ABBR11: 0.6%
- Others: 50.7%

SEATS WON
Congress: 1

- BJP: 43.7%
- INC: 32.2%
- BSP: 0.9%
- Others: 23.2%

COLOURS OF VICTORY

Clockwise from top left: Rajasthan Congress Chief Govind Singh Dotasra celebrates in Jaipur; BJP supporters celebrate in Satara; Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, BJP state President CR Patil and other leaders in Gandhinagar; Shiv Sena (UBT) supporters celebrate at Shiv Sena Bhavan in Mumbai *PHOTO: PTI/ANI*

INDIA bloc offered DyPM post to Nitish Kumar: Report

INDIA bloc may seek help of Nitish & TDP's Naidu to form govt

PATNA, 4 JUNE

The Opposition parties-led INDIA bloc has offered two key positions - Deputy Prime Minister for Nitish Kumar and special status for Andhra Pradesh - to lure two NDA partners, including the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Janata Dal (United) (JDU), according sources.

RJD on Tuesday afternoon claimed that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Telugu Desam Party President Chandrababu Naidu "shared a dislike for vendetta politics" which could lead them away from BJP-led NDA.

RJD national spokesperson Manoj Kumar Jha also recalled the forecast of Kumar, who heads the JD(U), that "those who came to power will be ousted in 2024", and the efforts he made in laying the foundation of the INDIA bloc.

JD(S) leader Nitish Kumar to attend NDA meeting today PHOTO: PTI

"We have been, formerly, in alliance with both Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu. We know they share a dislike for vendetta politics which the BJP stands for. Narendra Modi seems to be on his way out. We are hopeful that the two leaders will play a crucial role in the change of guard at the Centre," Jha told reporters.

Asked whether leaders of his party, including national president Lalu Prasad and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav, were in touch with Kumar, Jha cryptically replied "those who need to contact him are talking to him. Our leader Tejashwi Yadav has been saying for some time that Nitish Kumar will take a big decision around 4 June ". He also made it clear, "I am making no appeal to Nitish Kumar or Chandrababu Naidu. I am only expressing my hope, given the understanding I have of their temperament". —PTI

INDIA bloc to meet on approaching ex-partners

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

INDIA bloc will meet and decide on Wednesday whether to approach former partners such as the JD(U) and TDP to attempt government formation at the Centre, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said. "We are going to have a meeting with our partners tomorrow. These questions will be raised and answered there," Gandhi told a press conference here when asked if Congress and its allies will approach parties that are part of NDA to try and form a government. He was addressing the press conference with senior Congress leaders as the Lok Sabha poll results and trends showed BJP was set to become the single-largest party but would fall short of the magic figure of 272. He also said the general elections were a fight to save the Constitution. "India's poorest and backward stood up to save the Constitution." —PTI

Amit Shah wins by bigger margin than 2019

GANDHINAGAR, 4 JUNE

BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday won Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat of Gujarat by defeating his nearest Congress rival Sonal Patel by a staggering margin of more than 7.44 lakh votes, announced Election Commission of India. As per the result declared by ECI after counting of votes ended for the prestigious seat, Shah got 10,10,972 votes, while Patel received 2,66,256 lakh votes. BJP stalwart has won from the constituency for a second consecutive time. In the 2019 elections, Shah won the seat by a margin of more than 5.57 lakh votes. In the past, Gandhinagar has been represented in the Lok Sabha by BJP veteran Lal Krishna Advani. Former Prime Minister Ata Bihari Vajpayee won the seat in 1996, though he preferred to retain Lucknow which also he had bagged then. —PTI

Youngest & oldest members in fray win in TN & AP

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Two Samajwadi Party candidates - Pushpendra Saroj and Priya Saroj - are set to become the youngest candidates to win the Lok Sabha polls at 25 years of age, while DMK's TR Baalu, 82 might become the oldest member to register victory. Eleven candidates older than 80 years of age and 537 in the age group of 25-30 contested the Lok Sabha elections. Pushpendra Saroj (Kaushambi constituency) and Priya Saroj (Machhlishahr constituency), both leading with comfortable margins, are set to become the youngest members of the Lok Sabha at 25. Baalu , a six-time MP from DMK. —PTI

SC refuses to entertain Sisodia's bail plea

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain the bail pleas of AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the cases lodged by CBI and ED in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam. A vacation bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Sandeep Mehta noted the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED and the CBI, that the central probe agencies would file their final prosecution complaint and charge sheet by 3 July. Sisodia had challenged in the high court a trial court's April 30 order by which it had rejected his bail applications in the cases involving alleged irregularities in the formulation and execution of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy for 2021-22. Sisodia was arrested by CBI on 26 February, 2023, for his alleged role in the liquor policy case. The ED arrested him in the money laundering case. —PTI

LEADS BY 2.2 L VOTES

Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi

Rahul beats Sonia's 2019 victory margin in Rae Bareli

LUCKNOW, 4 JUNE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has surpassed Sonia Gandhi's 2019 victory margin from the Rae Bareli constituency and is now leading by 2,27,535 votes against his nearest rival Dinesh Pratap Singh of BJP.

Rahul Gandhi, who contested from Rae Bareli seat for the first time, was ahead of the BJP candidate since the beginning of the counting. Singh is also a minister in the Yogi Adityanath cabinet.

In 2019, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi won the seat by a margin 1,67,178 votes against Dinesh Pratap Singh. Rahul represented the Amethi Lok Sabha seat from 2004 to 2019. In the 2019 general election, he lost the seat to the BJP's Smriti Irani but was elected to the Lok Sabha from Kerala's Wayanad. —PTI

DESPITE AYODHYA RHETORIC

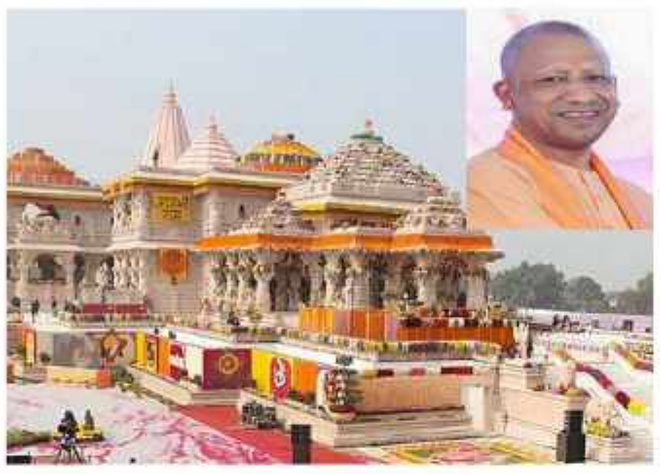
Bulldozer Baba fails to win UP

LUCKNOW, 4 JUNE

All along the seven phases of the Lok Sabha election, which were spread over two months, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath invoked the people's support showing off development, and more often in the name of god, an obvious call considering the recent consecration of the famed Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

However, it was not enough to prevent the downslide of BJP, which lost around half of the seats it had won in the previous general election. During the run up to the polls, Adityanath addressed around 200 political rallies, including road shows, covering 5-6 constituencies every day in the state.

He was often joined in the campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure that the saffron party reasserts its dominance in the key Hindi heartland state. All the same, there were few who could anticipate the drastic turnaround that sent the INDIA bloc skyrocketing to a place where it can call the shots even while being in the opposition. According to the latest information available at the Election Commission site, the Samajwadi Party won two seats while it was leading in 35 constituencies.



Ayodhya Temple strategy did not work out for BJP in UP PHOTO: PTI

BJP bagged five seats and was leading on 28 seats. Congress emerged victorious at one place and was leading on five seats.

He was at the forefront in the run-up to the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony in January this year, and sang paeans to Modi, calling on voters: "Jo Ram ko Laye, Hain hum unko Leyenge."

As a start campaigner for the party, Adityanath pulled crowd wherever he went to address poll rallies, especially in religion-charged constituencies like Mathura, where he campaigned for Hema Malini. —PTI

Congress' talisman Priyanka Gandhi who countered Modi

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi PHOTO: PTI

She scoffed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's barbs by delivering her own piercing jibes. She revived painful memories of her father's assassination to emphasise her family's sacrifices and patriotism. Drawing immense crowds in rally after rally, she emerged as the mobiliser-in-chief for her party.

With the Congress putting up a surprisingly good show in the Lok Sabha polls, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has cemented her position as her party's talisman.

"The Congress for a long time was in search of an effective campaigner and in the 2024 elections Priyanka has been a revelation in the way she has responded to Modi. Priyanka showed Modi can be countered and played a key role pan-India," said Rasheed Kidwai, who has authored several books, including "24 Akbar Road: A Short History of the People behind the fall and Rise of Congress".

Priyanka in large part was at the centre of the Congress' action, giving a number of enduring images from this election campaign.

Who can forget her emotional outburst in Bengaluru when she lashed out at Modi over his "gold and mangalsutra" remarks, saying her mother Sonia Gandhi sacrificed her "mangalsutra" for the country.

The speculation was intense as was the spotlight on everything she said. But the Congress general secretary did not take the electoral plunge this time, opting instead to be the party's go-to star campaigner and anchor for the elections in Rae Bareli, from where her brother contested, and Amethi, where the family's aide Kishori Lal Sharma took on Union minister Smriti Irani.

Irani was trailing behind Sharma by more than 95,000 votes, giving the relatively unknown Sharma an easy win. Rahul Gandhi was poised to win with trends showing him ahead by 2.86 lakh votes. —PTI

CELEBRATION TIME

BJP activists celebrate NDA's victory in Hyderabad PHOTO: PTI

Royal family candidates see easy victory across country

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Descendants of royal families, who are contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on BJP tickets, have performed fairly well with a majority of them leading with a huge margin on their respective seats.

Jyotiraditya Scindia, the scion of the erstwhile royal family of Gwalior who severed his 18-year-long ties with the Congress in 2020 and joined BJP, is leading with over 5 lakh votes from the Guna parliamentary constituency in Madhya Pradesh.

Union civil aviation minister is pitted against Congress' Rao Yadvendra Singh. BJP is having a clean sweep in Madhya Pradesh by securing huge vote margins on all 29 seats.

Another royal candidate Dushyant Singh, Prince of Dholpur state in Rajasthan, who has been elected four times in the past, wins from Jhalawar-Baran with over 8.63 lakh votes against his rival Urmila Jain of the Congress.

Mahima Kumari Mewar, the wife of Vishvaraj Singh Mewar who is a descendant of Maharana Pratap, wins from Rajsamand Lok Sabha seat in Rajasthan with around 71.20 lakh votes against her nearest rival Dr Damodar Gurjar of the Congress.

In the south, Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, 31-year-old US-educated who was crowned as the titular head of the erstwhile Mysuru royal family in 2015 making him the 27th 'King' of the Wadiyar dynasty, is a BJP candidate for the Mysuru Lok Sabha seat. —PTI

The story of Kiren Rijiju's tenacity and commitment

ITANAGAR, 4 JUNE

The political career of Kiren Rijiju, the Union minister and BJP candidate who won the Arunachal West Lok Sabha seat, is a riveting story of tenacity, commitment and leadership.

Rijiju first entered politics in 2004 and won a seat in the 14th Lok Sabha, representing the Arunachal West constituency. During his term, he showed a strong attention to the interests of his citizens and a commitment to enhancing government and infrastructure.

In his capacity as the state minister for Home Affairs from 2014 to 2019, he played a pivotal role in tackling domestic security issues and advocating for development projects in the northeast. His subsequent appointments to the positions of Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, ashows his adaptability. —PTI

BJP's Lalwani wins Indore by record 11.7L vote margin

BHOPAL, 4 JUNE

BJP's sitting MP from Indore Shankar Lalwani won on Tuesday by a record margin of 11,75,092 votes in a contest where NOTA created a record with 2.18 lakh voters opting for the 'none of the above' option in the Lok Sabha elections.

His victory margin is probably the highest in the country's electoral history, a BJP leader claimed.

In Tikamgarh (SC) seat, Union minister Virendra Kumar emerged victorious as he defeated his Congress rival Pankaj Ahirwar by 4,03,312 votes. Congress had received a jolt in the Indore Lok Sabha seat after its candidate Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew his nomination on 29 April, the last date for the withdrawal of nominations. Bam later joined the BJP, prompting the Congress to

Shankar Lalwani
PHOTO: X /@ANSHUL_CHAVHAN

appeal to the people to press the NOTA option on EVMs during polling in Indore on 13 May. Lalwani had secured victory for the first time in the 2019 elections.

Virendra Kumar remained undefeated in the Tikamgarh Lok Sabha seat since 2009 and won the elections for the fourth time in a row. Earlier, he represented Sagar Lok Sabha seat for four terms but after delimitation in 2008, he shifted to Tikamgarh. —PTI

Congress creates history in Nagaland after 20 years

KOHIMA, 4 JUNE

Congress on Tuesday created history by winning the lone Lok Sabha seat in Nagaland after a gap of 20 years, the ECI said. The party does not have any MLA in the state assembly.

Congress candidate S Supongmeren Jamir defeated his nearest rival Chumben Murry of the NDPP, a BJP ally, by a margin of 50,984 votes, Sushil Kumar Patel, returning officer for the Lok Sabha polls, told reporters. Jamir polled 4,01,951 votes, while Murry got 3,50,967 votes and Independent candidate Hayithung Tungoe Lotha got 6,232 votes, he said.This was the first major win for the that does not have any MLA in the state assembly since 2014. The party had last won the Lok Sabha seat in 1999. In the 2019 election, ruling NDPP candidate Tohekho Yeptomi had won the seat by over 13,000 votes. —PTI

IT'S ALL FATE

Jagan's political battle for survival

AMARAVATI, 4 JUNE

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's electoral fortunes seem to have plummeted to unexpected depths within a span of five years, during which the outgoing Chief Minister launched a slew of populist measures.

His father Rajasekhar Reddy's deathwhich dumped him into the abyss of political vagaries.

Aiming to cash in on the legacy of his father through padayatras (marathon political walkathons), which were being hindered by the Congress high command, led Jagan Mohan Reddy to cut ties with the national party to form his own Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) on 12 March, 2011.Reddy dived into electoral politics but failed to capture power narrowly in the 2014 polls, under the bleak shadow cast by the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy PHOTO: PTI

TDP in alliance with BJP and outside support from Janasena emerged victorious, compelling the YSRCP chief to slog it out for another five years to taste victory in 2019 polls, which was a landslide, enabling him to bag 151 Assembly and 22 Lok Sabha seats.

Through padayatras across the length and breadth of the southern state over the years leading up to 2019 polls, Reddy had struck a chord with the masses.

Following five years of welfare-centric governance, Jagan Mohan Reddy again fought against the NDA alliance of TDP, BJP and Janasena in the 2024 polls. —PTI

Gold jumps ₹450; silver climbs ₹200

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Gold prices jumped Rs 450 to Rs 72,900 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday in line with strong trends internationally, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous session, the precious metal had closed at Rs 72,450 per 10 grams. Additionally, silver prices climbed Rs 200 to Rs 93,100 per kg. It had settled at Rs 92,900 per kg in the previous session. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 72,900 per 10 grams, up by Rs 450 against the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the global markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,335 per ounce, up USD 15 from previous close. —*PTI*

Advertisers to give self-declaration forms from 18 June

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

The government on Monday asked all advertisers and advertising agencies to submit a self-declaration certificate making it clear that the advertisement does not contain misleading claims and adheres to regulatory guidelines. The self-declaration has to be submitted for all new print, digital, television and radio advertisements as required by a Supreme Court directive issued last month. Supreme Court directive is a step towards ensuring transparency, consumer protection, and responsible advertising practices, a statement by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said. The self-declaration certificate has to be uploaded on the Broadcast Seva Portal in case of TV and radio advertisements, and on the Press Council of India website for print, digital and internet advertisements, it added. —*PTI*

Adani Group shares tumble; Adani Ports plunges 25%

Shares rallied sharply on Monday with exit polls predictions

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Shares of all Adani Group companies tumbled on Tuesday as the initial trend showed BJP winning a lesser number of seats than predicted in exit polls.

The stock of Adani Ports plummeted 25 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions plunged 19.80 per cent, Adani Power slumped 19.76 per cent, Ambuja Cements tumbled 19.20 per cent and the group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises tanked 19.13 per cent on the BSE.

Adani Total Gas declined 18.55 per cent, Adani Green Energy dived 18.31 per cent, NDTV went lower by 15.65 per cent, ACC plunged 14.49 per cent and Adani Wilmar dropped 9.81 per cent.

Erasing the record-rally of the previous trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 4,131.44 points or 5.40 per cent to 72,337.34, and the Nifty slumped 1,263.3 points or 5.43 per cent to 22,000.60.

Shares of all Adani Group companies rallied sharply on Monday, with Adani Power surging nearly 16 per cent in line with a massive surge in the equity market, taking the combined market valuation of the ten listed firms to Rs 19.42 lakh crore. An election marked by acridity and acrimony could end with the treasury benches in reduced numbers. Shares of all group companies surged on Friday by up to 14 per cent after US brokerage Jefferies put a bullish view on the group that is back to an expansion spree with a planned USD 90 billion capital expenditure over the next decade. —*PTI*

Adani Energy Solutions plunged 19.80 per cent PHOTO: PTI

Rupee plunge 45P to close at 83.59 against US dollar

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

The rupee tumbled 45 paise to close at 83.59 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as the ruling BJP is unlikely to muster an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha elections. Besides, a massive sell-off in domestic equities and a strong greenback against major currencies overseas added to the gloom, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 83.25 and oscillated between a high of 83.23 and a low of 83.59 against the greenback during the session.

The domestic currency finally closed at 83.59 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of 45 paise from its previous close.

Counting of votes on Tuesday indicated disappointing results for the BJP-led NDA in the Lok Sabha elections, which appears to be losing heavily in its strongholds of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan although it is expected to form the government with about 290 seats. —*PTI*

PSU stocks tank up to 15 pc

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Shares of public sector enterprises and state-owned banks tumbled up to 15 per cent on Tuesday as benchmark equity indices plunged after the initial trend showed the BJP winning a lesser number of seats than predicted in exit polls.

The Nifty PSU Bank Index witnessed a steep fall by dropping 839.55 points or 10.49 per cent to 7,166.60, with the scrip of Punjab & Sindh Bank declining 14.75 per cent to Rs 55.50. Indian Bank dropped to Rs 528.75 and Union Bank was trading marginally lower at Rs 148.90 on the NSE.

In addition, shares of public sector lender State Bank of India (SBI) plunged 11.73 per cent to Rs 799.45 apiece.

Shares of Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda fell 10 per cent each to Rs 123.30 and Rs 267.25 apiece, respectively. The Nifty Bank index went lower by 2,806.40 points or 5.50 per cent to 48,173.55. Further, the Nifty Bank recorded the biggest fall since February 2022.

The Nifty PSE indices too slumped 1,221.55 points. —*PTI*

AIR CANADA OFFERS NON-STOP FLIGHT FROM TORONTO TO MUMBAI

MUMBAI, 4 JUNE

Air Canada on Tuesday announced a new non-stop flight service from Toronto to Mumbai and a new seasonal flight from Calgary to Delhi via London Heathrow as part of its winter schedule. This expansion will bring the Canadian flag carrier's operations to 25 weekly flights to and from India. Air Canada will operate 25 weekly flights this winter from Canada to India, offering a total of 7,400 seats each week. This includes up to 11 weekly flights from Toronto to Delhi and Mumbai. —*PTI*

TOYOTA RAIDED AS SAFETY TESTING SCANDAL ESCALATES

TOYKO, 4 JUNE

Japan's transport ministry raided the headquarters of motor giant Toyota on Tuesday, as a scandal over faulty safety data escalated. The world's largest carmaker has apologised for providing incorrect or manipulated data for safety certification tests. The scandal has shaken up the Japanese car industry, with rivals Honda, Mazda and Suzuki also admitting to submitting faulty data. Toyota sold more than 11 million passenger vehicles in 2023. —*BBC NEWS*

Crude oil prices plunge by 541 points

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Crude oil prices fell sharply by 541 points to 6149 on Tuesday, down from 6690 the previous day, even as OPEC+ announced a major extension of its oil production cuts aimed at stabilizing the market.

The decision, which extends the cut of 1.65 million barrels per day (bpd) announced in April 2023, will now remain in effect until the end of 2025.

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, collectively known as OPEC+, revealed that they would continue to enforce substantial oil production cuts totalling 5.86 million bpd. The move is designed to address the challenges posed by sluggish demand growth, elevated interest rates, and the increasing production of oil by the United States.

OPEC+ had initially planned for the mandatory cuts of 3.66 million bpd to expire at the end of 2024. However, under the new agreement, these cuts will be extended through to the end of 2025.

Analysts suggest that the drop in crude prices could be attributed to several factors.

Among them are ongoing concerns over the global economic outlook, high interest rates, and the robust increase in U.S. oil production, which may be offsetting the impact of OPEC+'s supply management efforts.

This scenario anticipates a stock drawdown of 2.63 million bpd if production remains at April's rate of 41.02 million bpd. However, this drawdown is expected to decrease as the voluntary cuts begin to phase out in late 2024. —*ANI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Remove claim of 100pc fruit juice from ads: FSSAI

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Food regulator FSSAI has asked food business operators to immediately remove claims of 100 per cent fruit juices in advertisements as well as labels on packaged products.

According to an official statement, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a "directive mandating all Food Business Operators (FBOs) to remove any claim of '100% fruit juices' from the labels and advertisements of reconstituted fruit juices with an immediate effect.

All the FBOs have also been instructed to exhaust all existing pre-printed packaging materials before 1st September 2024. "It has come to the attention of FSSAI that several FBOs have been inaccurately marketing various types of reconstituted fruit juices by claiming them to be 100 per cent fruit juices," the statement said.

Upon thorough examination, FSSAI has concluded that, according to the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018, there is no provision for making a '100%' claim. FSSAI said it is dedicated to protecting and promoting public health. —*PTI*

Quetta coal mine: 11 dead after inhaling methane

QUETTA, 4 JUNE

At least 11 people lost their lives after inhaling methane gas inside a coal mine in the Sanjdi area, some 50 km from Quetta, according to Dawn. The incident, which took place on Monday, claimed the lives of nine coal miners, a coal company manager, and a contractor. "The coal miners were working around 1,500 feet deep in the mine when the gas eruption started and quickly spread to the place. The Mines Department's rescue crews, following no response, raced to the site of the incident. No one was found alive when rescuers entered the mine, having first taken safety precautions and vented the gas. "All the nine miners and two others were found dead deep inside the mine," the official said. —*ANI*

De-seal PTI office in Islamabad, says High Court

ISLAMABAD, 4 JUNE

A top court on Tuesday ordered authorities to de-seal the central office of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, nearly two weeks after it was shut down. The Capital Development Authority (CDA) on 24 May raided the PTI office in Islamabad and closed the building, alleging that it was built by violating laws. The party had challenged the action in the Islamabad High Court where Justice Saman Rizvi on Monday reserved judgement after concluding the hearing. The court ordered the CDA to de-seal the PTI central secretariat. The development comes a day after PTI founder Khan was acquitted in three high-profile cases, including the cipher case, in a major relief to the beleaguered former prime minister who was sentenced to 10 years in jail for making public a secret diplomatic communication. —*PTI*

US urges UN to support ceasefire plan in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, 4 JUNE

United States urged the UN Security Council on Monday to support the three-phase plan announced by President Joe Biden aimed at ending the nearly eight-month war in Gaza, freeing all hostages and sending massive aid into the devastated territory.

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the United States circulated a draft resolution to the 14 other council members to back the proposal for ending the conflict that began with Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel on 7 October that killed some 1,200 people, mostly Israeli civilians.

"Numerous leaders and governments, including in the region, have endorsed this plan and we call on the Security Council to join them in calling for implementation of this deal without delay and without further conditions," she said in a statement.

The brief draft resolution, obtained by Associated Press, would welcome the 31 May deal announced by Biden and call on Hamas "to accept it fully and implement its terms without delay and without condition".

When Biden made the announcement he called it an Israeli offer that includes an "enduring ceasefire" and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza if Hamas releases all hostages it is holding.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his hardline governing partners on Monday the proposal announced by Biden would meet Israel's goal of destroying Hamas, according to local media.

On Monday, the foreign ministers of five key Arab nations — Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt — urged Israel and Hamas to consider Biden's proposal "seriously and positively". —*PTI*

Israeli soldiers stand on top of armoured vehicles in a staging area near the Israeli-Gaza border in southern Israel PHOTO: PTI

Israel declares 4 more hostages are dead in Gaza

JERUSALEM, 4 JUNE

Four more hostages kidnapped on 7 October were declared dead by the Israeli military — including three older men seen in a Hamas video begging to be released.

Monday's announcement heightens pressure on the Israeli government to agree to a US cease-fire proposal that could secure the return of the hostages still held in Gaza and end the eight-month war.

About 80 hostages in Gaza are believed to be alive, alongside the remains of 43 others.

In the days since President Joe Biden announced the cease-fire proposal Friday, Israel has seen some of its largest protests calling on the government to bring them home. Although Biden said the proposal was Israeli, the Israeli leadership has appeared to distance itself from the plan, vowing to keep conducting military operations against Hamas until the militant group is destroyed.

All four of the men declared dead Monday night — Nadav Popplewell, Amiram Cooper, Yoram Metzger and Haim Peri — were kidnapped and taken into Gaza still alive, according to the Hostages Forum, a grassroots group representing the families of the hostages.

Hundreds of people, including relatives of the captives, gathered outside Israel's Defence Ministry and military headquarters in central Tel Aviv late Monday, calling for a deal. Smaller protests took place across the country.

Israel has been expanding its offensive in the southern city of Rafah, once the main hub of humanitarian aid operations. The Israeli invasion of Rafah has largely cut off the flow of food, medicine and other supplies to Palestinians facing widespread hunger. —*PTI*

SRI LANKA: DEATH TOLL RISES TO 16 DUE TO FLOODS

COLOMBO, 4 JUNE

Sri Lanka closed schools on Monday as the death toll due to floods and mudslides triggered by heavy rains in many parts of the island nation, rose to 16 people, officials said.

The education ministry announced that the reopening of schools would depend on how the weather develops.

Heavy downpours have wreaked havoc in many parts of the country since Sunday, flooding homes, fields and roads, and forcing authorities to cut electricity.

Twelve people died after being washed away and drowning near the capital, Colombo, and the remote Rathnapura, Matara and Galle districts on Sunday, according to the disaster management centre. Three others died when mounds of earth collapsed on their houses, and one person died when a tree fell on him. By Monday, over 6,000 people had been moved to evacuation centres and more than 12,000 homes had been damaged. —*PTI*

Pak PM Sharif embarks on five-day visit to China: Report

ISLAMABAD, 4 JUNE

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday embarked on a five-day official visit to China aimed at strengthening bilateral ties further as the all-weather allies seek to upgrade cooperation under the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Sharif will be in China from 4 to 8 June at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

72-year-old leader embarked on his first visit to China after he took over as prime minister for the second term after his Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party-led coalition government came to power in March.

During his visit, Sharif will hold talks with Chinese President Xi and "jointly draw a blueprint" for the growth of China-Pakistan relations, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in Beijing last week.

Shehbaz Sharif PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

On Monday, the Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, said that under the guidance of two leaders and strong support from the people of both countries, Sharif's visit to China would achieve complete success and become a milestone in the development of China-Pakistan relations.

India firmly opposes CPEC, which will link Xinjiang in China and the Gwadar port in Pakistan because it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of China's ambitious multi-billion-dollar BRI. BRI is seen as an attempt by China to further its influence abroad with infrastructure projects funded by Chinese investments. Sharif's visit to Beijing, which is always a first stop for Pakistani leaders after taking over power, is taking place as Pakistan is facing a severe economic crisis with foreign exchange reserves continuing to remain at a low level. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

BIDEN PREPARES ORDER TO SHUT DOWN ASYLUM

WASHINGTON 4 JUNE

The White House is telling lawmakers that President Joe Biden is preparing to sign off on an executive order that would shut down asylum requests at the US-Mexico border once the average number of daily encounters hits 2,500 at ports of entry, with the border reopening only once that number declines to 1,500, according to people familiar with the discussions. —*PTI*

South Korea suspends military deal with N Korea

SEOUL, 4 JUNE

- North Korea has used balloons to drop manure, cigarette butts, scraps of cloth and waste paper on South Korea, prompting Seoul to vow "unbearable" retaliation

South Korea on Tuesday took steps to suspend a contentious military agreement with North Korea and resume frontline military activities, as tensions between the rivals are rising over the North's recent launch of trash-carrying balloons.

North Korea didn't immediately respond, but South Korea's resumption of firing exercises or propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts will likely prompt North Korea to take stronger steps along rivals.

In the past week, North Korea has used balloons to drop manure, cigarette butts, scraps of cloth and waste paper on South Korea, prompting Seoul to vow "unbearable" retaliation. On Sunday, North Korea said it would halt its balloon campaign.

On Tuesday, South Korea's Cabinet Council and President Yoon Suk Yeol approved a proposal to suspend the 2018 inter-Korean agreement on lowering frontline military tensions. It will take effect once Seoul notifies the North.

The military agreement — reached during a short-lived era of reconciliation between the Koreas — required the two countries to cease all hostile acts at border areas, such as live firing drills, aerial drills and psychological warfare. —*PTI*

T20 WORLD CUP

India open against gutsy Ireland in renewed quest for WC glory

Indian cricketers would leave no stone unturned to break away from their archaic template

NEW YORK, 4 JUNE

Sceptics call them 'old wine in a new bottle' but a clutch of superstar Indian cricketers would leave no stone unturned to break away from their archaic template when they take on a plucky Ireland in their opening game of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

The team knows that it is a touch undercooked with a lot of confusion persisting about what could be the best combination on a drop-in virgin strip. As is clear from the games so far, scoring won't be a walk in the park like it was during the Indian Premier League the last couple of months. But the bigger concern is the baggage of being favorites who don't make it count in the end.

Rohit Sharma at a training session PHOTO: X / @T20WORLDCUP

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have individually laid their hands on global silverware but an assortment of some other 'once in generation' cricketers, including Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja, have not and they would be eager to finally lift one. This Indian cricket team wouldn't want to be the Brazil football team of 1982 and 86 when global stars like Socrates, Zico, Careca, Falcao, and Alemao couldn't win the FIFA trophy. The 'Green Shirts' will be the banana peel that Rohit and his men can ill afford to slip on before they meet the more famous 'Green Jerseys' at the weekend.Match Starts: at 8 pm. —PTI

T20 form 'best in a decade, says Pat Cummins

HAMBURG, 4 JUNE

Australia pace spearhead Pat Cummins feels his T20 game is at its best in a decade as he heads into the World Cup high on confidence after a successful Indian Premier League campaign.Cummins reached Bridgetown on Saturday. He enters the World Cup after a hectic IPL campaign where he led the Sunrisers Hyderabad to a runner-up finish. "Probably as well as I have for the last 10 years really," Cummins told cricket.com.au of his T20 bowling. Having never played in the Caribbean, the Australian Test and ODI captain had his first-ever training session in the West Indies on Monday. But Cummins is confident of how he's placed ahead of the World Cup, having continuously played T20 cricket since March in the IPL. —PTI

NORWAY CHESS

R Praggnanandhaa and Ding Liren PHOTO: PTI

Pragg twice lucky as Liren blunders again

STAVANGER, 4 JUNE

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa avenged his early Armageddon defeat with a win against world champion Ding Liren but only after the Chinese blundered from a position of strength in both the games in the seventh round of the Norway chess tournament. While the first match ended in a draw, Praggnanandhaa came on top in the Armageddon.

Praggnanandhaa employed his pet Italian opening as white against Liren but was in for a surprise as the Chinese seized the initiative in the middle game with a timely control of the center.

With his Kingside under threat, Praggnanadhaa tried to stay afloat and on the 29th move, Liren made an error. The game was drawn abruptly on the next move when the pundits believed there was still a lot to play for.

In the return game too, Liren missed a simple maneuver that would have netted him a decisive material advantage and instead ended up throwing his own piece away a couple of moves later. Magnus Carlsen of Norway proved a tad slow and lost on time in the Armageddon game against Hikaru Nakamura of the United States. —PTI

PHOTO: PTI

Gavaskar picks Kohli to open against Ireland

NEW YORK, 4 JUNE

Batting legend Sunil Gavaskar feels Virat Kohli should open alongside skipper Rohit Sharma in India's T20 World Cup game against Ireland on Wednesday with Yashasvi Jaiswal dropping down to the number three position. There has been a lot of debate around Kohli's batting position in the T20 World Cup. Kohli has been India's designated number-three batter in the white-ball format for a long time. He heads to the marquee event on the back of an excellent IPL season. —PTI

BOPANNA PICKS BALAJI AS HIS PARTNER FOR PARIS OLYMPICS

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

World number four Rohan Bopanna has picked N Sriram Balaji, who impressed with his performance at the French Open, as his partner for the Paris Olympics and All India Tennis Association (AITA) is unlikely to have any objection to the choice made by the veteran player.

The 44-year-old Bopanna wrote to AITA and also marked TOPS in the mail, conveying his decision - a development confirmed by the national federation.

Balaji and his Mexican partner MA Reyes-Varela Martinez had tested the formidable combo of Bopanna and Australia's Matthew Ebden before losing the men's doubles third round on Monday.

Balaji played well from the baseline with a strong serve backing his game and was equally impressive at the net -- a performance that would have convinced Bopanna that the player from Coimbatore is the best option for him when he returns to Roland Garros for a final shot at an Olympic medal next month.

Rohan Bopanna PHOTO: PTI

Bopanna, only the third Indian to win a Grand Slam title, came close to winning a medal at the Rio Games but he and Sania Mirza had lost the mixed doubles bronze match to the Czech combination of Radek Stepanek and Lucie Hradecka.

"I have sent an email to AITA," Bopanna told PTI from Paris, adding that he would comment on his choice only after hearing back from the national federation.

Yuki Bhambri, India's number two doubles player at number 52, was also in contention.

The 31-year-old Bhambri made a first-round exit from the French Open with French partner Albano Olivetti but has enjoyed success on clay this season, winning the ATP 250 tournament in Munich and ending runners-up at another ATP 250 event in Lyon with the same partner. —PTI

Esha finishes sixth in Munich World Cup

MUNICH, 4 JUNE

Esha Singh finished sixth in the women's 25m pistol at the ongoing ISSF World Cup in Munich as India's search for their first medal continued.

Esha shot 20 in the final, which was won by Camille Jedrzejewski of France.

Camille beat Germany's Doreen Vennekamp for the title after the two went through two shoot-offs to separate the winner. The two were tied at 40 after the regulation 10-series of shots. Current finals world record holder Kim Yeji of Korea was third with 35.

This was India's second consecutive sixth-place finish in a final in this tournament after Ramita had finished in the same position in the women's 10m Air Rifle on Monday. China leads the standings with three gold medals. —PTI

GM Arjun Erigaisi breaks into world top-5 in FIDE rating list

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi's strong showing in the French Team Chess Championship has helped him reach the fifth spot in the FIDE standings, making him the highest-ranked Indian by live rating.Arjun, with an ELO rating of 2769.7, has so far added 8.7 points to his tally, behind Magnus Carlsen of Norway, USA's Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana, and Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia.He had briefly reached a career-high live rating of 2771.2 earlier this week. —PTI

Arjun Erigaisi PHOTO: PTI

PHOTO: PTI

Aarti Patil wins bronze medal in Bahrain

DUBAI, 4 JUNE

Para-badminton player Aarti Patil made a bronze medal-winning return to the international circuit after a leg injury that had kept her out of action for months and she is now aiming for a top-10 ranking by August to be eligible to play Level 1 tournaments on the BWF circuit. Patil, who had not played any international event since the BWF World Championship in Thailand in February, went down to compatriot Manisha Ramadass in the semifinals in the women's SU5 category at the Bahrain Para-Badminton tournament on Saturday. —AP

PHOTO: PTI

Have to find love: Sania Mirza

MUMBAI, 4 JUNE

Former tennis star Sania Mirza has hinted that she is yet to find love again after her separation from ex-Pakistan cricket team captain Shoaib Malik. Earlier this year in January, Malik announced his wedding to Pakistani actor Sana Javed, confirming the rumors of his separation from Sania. In the upcoming episode of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show', Sania made a special appearance with a few other current and former Indian athletes. During the episode, which is set to release later this week, Kapil reminded Sania that Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan offered to play

Coco Gauff overcomes Jabeur

Coco Gauff PHOTO: PTI

ROME, 4 JUNE

Coco Gauff is into the semi-finals of the French Open after she came from a set down to beat Ons Jabeur 4-6 6-2 6-3.

The American third seed started slowly as her Tunisian opponent flew out of the blocks with some huge hitting, but Gauff rallied and roared back in a tense second set, and much less close third, to reach the last four.

Jabeur, the eighth seed, gunned for Gauff's forehand in the opening set and broke after an enthralling game to lead 4-3, and she slammed down an ace to seize first blood.

However, Gauff turned the aggressor at 2-1 in the second set, stepping in to unleash her brilliant backhand and notch a break of her own.

Jabeur broke back immediately, but Gauff's advantage was restored to love in the following game, with the American building on her 4-2 lead to stave off a late fightback from the world No. 9 to reach the semi-final stage in Paris for a second time.

Gauff, a finalist at Roland-Garros in 2022, will face Iga Swiatek or Marketa Vondrousova in the last four.

Zverev goes five again to edge Rune

For the second straight match at Roland Garros, Alexander Zverev battled into a fifth set to survive and advance. On Monday night turned Tuesday morning on Court Philippe-Chatrier, the German came from behind for a 4-6, 6-1, 5-7, 7-6(2), 6-2 victory against Holger Rune, keeping alive his bid to reach the semi-finals for the fourth consecutive year at the clay-court major.

Alexander Zverev PHOTO: PTI

By denying Rune his third quarter-final in three Paris appearances, Zverev became the sixth man to reach six Roland Garros quarter-finals this century. —AP

Djokovic may withdraw as Aryna emulates Serena

NEW DELHI, 1 JUNE

Novak Djokovic's sensational French Open comeback win against Francisco Cerundolo showcased his "best tennis", according to Chris Evert.

The world No. 1 was two sets to one down before battling back to win 6-1 5-7 3-6 7-5 6-3 in a four-and-a-half-hour classic.

Djokovic was also visibly struggling with injury during the match and needed lengthy treatment before his remarkable turnaround on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

This comes off the back of another five-setter in the previous round against Lorenzo Musetti and speaking to Eurosport, seven-time Roland-Garros champion Evert was impressed with how the Serb was able to eventually compose himself to seize the win in such impressive fashion.

Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka

PHOTO: X/@ROLANDGARROS

"He's played two five-set matches now, back-to-back," she said. "It's going to really depend on how he recovers. We'll have to see about that.

"What I loved about this match was you saw many different personalities of Novak like we always do. You saw the frustration on his face, you saw when he was injured and that last set, he looked so fired up and he played his best tennis."

Finally, **Aryna Sabalenka** - who has emulated Serena Williams by becoming the first player since Serena Williams to win her opening 11 Grand Slam matches of the season in consecutive years - will face 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva tomorrow too. —AP

Lakshya Sen enters 2nd round of IO

JAKARTA, 4 JUNE

Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen entered the men's singles second round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament with a straight-game win over Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama here on Tuesday.

Sen took just 40 minutes to get the better of Tsuneyama 21-12 21-17 in an opening-round clash.

Sen, who sneaked into the Olympic qualification with back-to-back semifinal finishes at the French Open and All England Championships will next be up against the winner of the match between seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia and Japan's Kenta Nishimoto.

Lakshya Sen PHOTO: PTI

However, it was curtains for Kiran George from the men's singles event, but not before giving a tough fight to Hong Yang Weng of China 21-11 10-21 20-22.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of B Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy had to battle hard before prevailing 18-21 21-16 21-17 over the American pair of Vinson Chiu and Jennie Gai in the opening round.

But a herculean task awaits the Indian pair as it will take on the winner of the match between top seeds Si Wei Zheng and Ya Qiong Huang of China and the Indonesian combination of Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto and Lisa Ayu Kusumawati in the next round. —PTI

Vihari finally gets NOC from ACA

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

India batter Hanuma Vihari has finally got his no objection certificate (NOC) from the Andhra Cricket Association after falling out with the state body.

In March, the ACA had served a show-cause notice to Vihari after the Test cricketer accused the governing body of unceremoniously removing him from captaincy and vowed not to play for the state again. In a post on X, Vihari wrote that he had been asking for the NOC for the past two months but finally got it on Monday. —PTI

AFGHAN COACH'S TAKE

Bravo's inclusion as bowling coach fantastic move: Trott

PROVIDENCE, 4 JUNE

Afghanistan chief coach Jonathan Trott on Tuesday said the decision to rope in Dwayne Bravo as the team's bowling coach for the ongoing T20 World Cup worked wonders as the West Indian has made his job easier.

Riding on left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi's (5/9) fiery spell after Rahmanullah Gurbaz (76) and Ibrahim Zadran's (70) solid opening partnership, Afghanistan routed debutants Uganda by 125 runs here. Speaking to the media after his side's first win,

Trott credited the contribution of Bravo, who according to him, has brought about a change in the approach of Afghanistan bowlers."DJ (Dwayne Bravo) coming into the side, fantastic.

Having quality coaches also with huge experience as players (is great), but also vast franchise experience in this format of the game," Trott said in the post-match press conference."(It's) only a brilliant thing to have a player like him coming to the side as a coach and it makes your job a lot easier but it also makes the coaching more enhanced, especially with the bowlers."We've seen the start of his first game with us and we saw the bowlers bowl well, so credit to Dwayne. So (a) nice start for the boys."Uganda, who were bowled out for 58 in 16 overs, might have been outplayed by the Afghans in their first-ever T20 World Cup match but captain Brian Masaba was more focussed on the positives."

Pretty special moment for us, hearing our national anthem and seeing our flag at the World Cup," Masaba said after the match."First game at the World Cup, (a) lot of nerves, so good to get that out of the way. —PTI

Dwayne Bravo PHOTO: PTI